From Gangotri (Uttarakhand) to Ganga Sagar (West Bengal), it is nothing but the lotus in full bloom. Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, and Bengal today, in states surrounding Mother Ganga, there are BJP-NDA govts

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Assam and WB are cases of the votes being stolen by BJP with EC's support. Chunav chori, sanstha chori -- ab aur chara hi kya hai! (Election theft, institutional theft -- what is the option now)

—Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

Mamata loses Bhabanipur to Suvendhu

In a contest mirroring Nandigram battle of 2021, BJP's Suvendu Adhikari defeated CM Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur by 15,105 votes. Adhikari polled 73,917 votes against Banerjee's 58,812. Though the CM led by over 17,000 votes after the seventh round, the gap steadily narrowed before Adhikari overtook her in the final stages.

BJP has looted more than 100 seats. The Election Commission is the BJP's commission. Do you think this is a victory? It is an immoral victory, not a moral victory. Whatever the Election Commission has done, along with the Central Forces and the PM & Home Minister, is totally illegal. It is loot, loot, loot. We will bounce back.

—Mamata Banerjee, TMC supremo

I want to thank Gaurav Gogoi. His allegations were against an Assamese woman, which made the people emotional. If he (Khera)had not done the press conference and Gogoi had not sat with him through it, he might not have lost today —Himanta

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Vijay stuns, BJP blooms, Cong survives

In a blockbuster sweep, Vijay's TVK emerges as the single largest party in Tamil Nadu, while Congress wins Kerala

BJP scripts history in Bengal with a '200-paar' sweep, while NDA is set to form government in Assam for a 3rd term and retain Puducherry

BJP supporters eat 'Jhalmuri' amid celebrations in Kolkata on Monday —PTI

TAMILNADU — TOTAL SEATS: 234 — MAJORITY MARK: 118

TVK	107
DMK	59
ADMK	47
INC	5
OTHERS	15

WEST BENGAL — TOTAL SEATS: 294 — MAJORITY MARK: 148

BJP	206
AITC	79
INC	2
AJUP	2
LEFT	2

KERALAM — TOTAL SEATS: 140 — MAJORITY MARK: 71

INC	63
CPI(M)	26
IUML	22
CPI	8
OTHERS	21

ASSAM — TOTAL SEATS: 126 — MAJORITY MARK: 65

BJP	82
INC	19
BOPF	10
AGP	10
OTHERS	5

PUDUCHERRY — TOTAL SEATS: 30 — MAJORITY MARK: 16

AINRC	12
DMK	5
BJP	4
TVK	2
OTHERS	7

AS OF 12AM

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

Election results across four states and a Union Territory turned historic and highly unpre-dictable on Monday, delivering a string of surpris-es and underscoring a strong wave of anti-incumbency across regions.

Tamil Nadu produced the most dramatic outcome, with actor-politician Vijay's Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) emerging as the single largest party barely two years after entering politics. The party dealt a stunning blow to the ruling DMK, with Chief Minister MK Stalin losing his Kolathur seat, while the AIADMK slipped to a distant third. This marks the first time since 1967, when the DMK ended Congress domi-nance—that a force outside the Dravidian duopoly has so significantly reshaped the state's political landscape. Though TVK led in early trends, it fell short of the 118-seat majority in the 234-mem-ber Assembly, resulting in a hung House.

West Bengal witnessed a defining political shift as the BJP secured a two-thirds majority, ending 15 years of Trinamool Congress rule. The verdict signals the collapse of the political order Mamata Banerjee built after dislodg-ing the Left in 2011. It also marks a personal set-back for the Chief Minister, whose authority now faces its most serious challenge.

For years, Bengal stood as the key exception to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political expansion. While the BJP swept the Hindi heart-land, expanded westwards and consolidated the north-east, Bengal remained resis-tant. Monday's result marks a decisive rupture in that pat-tern.

For the first time since 1972, the state appears set to be governed by a party that is also in power at the Centre, a shift with significant admin-istrative and political impli-cations. The victory also rep-resents the BJP's decisive breach of its last major east-ern bastion, complet-ing its arc across "Anga, Banga and Kalinga" (Bihar, Bengal and Odisha) and altering the broader national balance.

A key factor lay in 177 con-stituencies where voter dele-tions under the SIR process exceed-ed previous victory margins, a latent variable that appears to have translat-ed into a decisive electoral shift. The scale of the setback was reflected in the defeat of at least 20 TMC ministers, including Bratya Basu, Manas Ranjan Bhunia, Shashi Panja and Chandrima Bhattacharya.

Kerala, meanwhile, saw a sharp political reset as the Congress-led United Democratic Front returned to power after a decade, displac-ing the Left government under Pinarayi Vijayan. The Congress strengthened its southern footprint alongside Karnataka and Telangana. The Left Front secured 21.77 per cent vote share, while the UDF polled 28.79 per cent; ally IUML registered 11.01 per cent. The BJP also made a modest breakthrough, win-ning three seats.

Assam delivered continuity for the National Democratic Alliance, which is set for a third consecutive term with 101 of 126 seats. The BJP won 81 seats, while allies BPF and AGP secured 10 each.

Across the five regions, NOTA remained marginal, peaking at 1.29 per cent in Assam and staying below one per cent elsewhere, underlin-ing its limited electoral impact. —PTI

PM Narendra Modi arrives to celebrate with BJP supporters at party headquarters in New Delhi on Monday—PTI

FROM UNITY TO UNCERTAINTY: INDIA BLOC HIT BY LOSSES

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

That fortunes can turn quick-ly, the INDIA bloc learnt it the hard way on Monday with the defeats of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the DMK and the CPI(M)-led Left Front in less than a month after a unit-ed Opposition handed a rare legislative setback to the ruling NDA in Lok Sabha by block-ing its move to pass the women reservation bill.

While the losses at the state level will not immediately alter the INDIA bloc's numbers in Parliament, Monday's results are likely to leave a deeper imprint on the coalition's internal dynamics, which have been shaped as much by shared purpose as by underly-ing contradictions.

BJP's capture of West Bengal, among the frontiers that had eluded the party so far and which sends as many as 42 MPs to Lok Sabha, holds the potential to expand its footprint further in 2029. It also opens a new window for the party to augment its Rajya Sabha strength.

The setbacks for the TMC and the DMK, key pillars of the Opposition and the third- and fourth-largest contribu-tors to its Lok Sabha strength, are expect-ed to further dent the bloc's morale. At the same time, the ver-dict is set to trigger another subtle but significant shift with-in the INDIA bloc -- the likelihood of renewed calls for a change in leadership appears diminished. Regional parties that had earlier questioned Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's leadership have themselves suffered electoral reverses, reducing the appetite for internal challenges, at least in the immediate aftermath of these results. —PTI

Cong wins Bagalkot, Davanagere South Assembly seats

Umesh Meti —x

BAGALKOT/ DAVANAGERE, 4 MAY

Ruling Congress in Karnataka on Monday retained Bagalkot and Davanagere South Assembly seats, giving a respite to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the party leadership, amid the ongoing power tussle over the leader-ship issue.

The results are a setback to the opposition BJP, which aimed to wrest the seats from the Congress and deal a blow to the ruling party.

The polls were necessitated by the deaths of senior Congress MLAs HY Meti (Bagalkot) and Shamanur Shivashankarappa (Davanagere South). The two victorious candidates in this by-election are family mem-bers of the deceased leaders.

Congress candidate Umesh Meti, son of H Y Meti, won the Bagalkot assembly seat by a margin of 22,332, defeating BJP's Veerabhadrayya Charantimath, a former MLA and a 2023 defeated candidate.

In Davanagere South Congress' Samarth Mallik-arjun, Shivashankarappa's grandson, won by a margin of 5,708 votes, defeating BJP's Srinivasa T Dasakariyappa, a fresh face.

Although the outcome of these by-elections is unlikely to have an immediate impact on state politics, the contest was seen as a matter of pres-tige for both the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP. While the Congress faced the challenge of retaining both seats, the BJP aimed to wrest them and deliver a setback to the ruling party, which is cur-rently witnessing an "internal power struggle" over the chief minister change issue. —PTI

Samarth Mallikarjun

Iran warns of attack after Trump says US will 'guide' ships in Hormuz

DUBAI, 4 MAY

United States President Donald Trump has said Washington will guide ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz to safety under an initiative dubbed "Project Freedom", signalling a challenge to Iran's blockade of the strategic waterway.

"The ship movement is mere-ly meant to free up people, com-panies, and countries that have done absolutely nothing wrong — they are victims of circum-stance," Trump posted on Truth Social on Sunday, describing it as a "humanitarian gesture". He said the move was made at the request of countries whose vessels remain stuck in the strait, calling them "neutral and innocent bystanders".

Iran's military, however, warned the United States Navy to stay out of the Strait of Hor-muz. Ali Abdollahi, head of Iran's unified military com-mand, said US forces would be attacked if they entered the area and that commercial ves-sels should only move with Iranian coordination.

Meanwhile, the US military said two American-flagged mer-chant ships had successfully transited the strait and that Navy destroyers were helping restore shipping traffic. It also rejected Iranian claims that a US Navy vessel had been struck.The escalation follows months of disruption in the waterway since the Iran-Israel con-flict began on 28 February. Iran has effectively closed the strait, rattling global energy markets and pushing up oil and gas prices across Europe and Asia.

In a separate incident, the United Arab Emirates said an Iranian drone struck an oil facil-ity in Fujairah, triggering a fire. Three Indian nationals were injured in the incident, the Indian Embassy in UAE confirmed, adding it was coor-dinating care. —Agencies

BJP WINS SRINGERI AFTER RECOUNTING

CHIKKAMAGALURU, 4 MAY

BJP candidate DN Jeevaraj from the Sringeri Assembly constituency, who lost the 2023 election, has been declared elected MLA after a court-or-dered recount of postal ballots by the Karnataka High Court.

The recount, conducted on Saturday and continuing till midnight, revised the 2023 result in which Congress candi-date and incumbent MLA TD Raje Gowda had won by a nar-row margin of 201 votes. Following the exercise, Raje Gowda's tally was reduced by 255 votes, altering the outcome in Jeevaraj's favour. Jeevaraj was shown to have secured 690 valid votes, two fewer than ini-tially counted, while Raje Gowda's total dropped to 314.

Returning Officer Gaurav Kumar Shetty confirmed the revised figures. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar called the outcome "dangerous" and alleged conspiracy. —PTI

ALARMING RISE

Increase punishment for acid attacks: SC to Centre

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

Flagging the "alarming increase" in the cases of "bar-baric" acid attacks, the Supreme Court suggested that the Centre consider enhancing the punishment for such offenc-es besides shifting the onus on the accused to prove that he is not guilty.

Under criminal jurispru-dence, the onus to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt against the accused lies on the prosecution unless the law pro-vides otherwise.

The SC directed that pend-ing a suitable amend-ment, persons who are forcibly made to con-sume acid or have suffered internal injuries without any outer disfigurement would fall within the ambit of acid attack victims under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said on Monday thart this explana-tion shall be deemed to have been included from the very inception when the 2016 Act came into force.

The SC passed the order while hearing a PIL filed by acid attack survivor Shaheen Malik who said that such victims should be categorised as per-sons with disabilities.

The CJI observed that the punishment prescribed for acid attacks was not prov-ing to be a deterrent. The bench also suggested that assets of those convict-ed in such heinous cases be attached to compensate the vic-tims. —PTI

Minor's abortion: SC ends contempt case against AIIMS

Supreme Court has closed contempt proceedings against the Centre and AIIMS in a case involving the termi-nation of a 30-week pregnancy of a minor girl. A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan was informed that its 24 April order had been complied with. Justice Nagarathna remarked that such directions are not easy but neces-sary, emphasising the importance of avoiding unwanted pregnancies. She warned that if AIIMS does not undertake the abortion, the wom-an's life could be at risk from unqualified doctors.

—FREEPIK

Three held for killing Tibetan monk in Dharwad

DHARWAD, 4 MAY

Three people were arrested on Monday for the murder of a Tibetan man here, police said on Monday. Tashi Dhondup, 39, a Buddhist monk and resident of Mundagod, was found dead near Haliyal Bridge on the Dharwad bypass on 29 April. Police said the body bore injury marks on the face, indicating foul play. Following inspection and identification of the deceased, a case of murder was registered the same day based on visible injuries and findings from the scene of crime team, a senior police officer said. Superintendent of Police Gunjan Arya said the motive appears to be "murder for gain". The accused allegedly demanded money from the victim and assaulted him when he failed to comply, leading to his death. Three accused from Kolhapur in Maharashtra, are arrested, efforts are on to nab two others. —*ANI*

Bypoll win helps Cong amid power tussle

BJP hoped to make gains & energise its cadre ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections

BAGALKOT/ DAVANAGERE, 4 MAY

Congress breathed a sigh of relief after winning the bypolls in Bagalkot and Davanagere South Assembly seats. Party sources said retaining both seats was crucial for the Congress, as a loss could be seen as a negative verdict on the Siddaramaiah-led government's performance amid the internal power tussle.

The BJP hoped to make gains in the by-elections and energise its cadre ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections. By losing both seats the saffron party continued its record of losing bypolls - Shorapur, Sandur and Shiggaon - to Congress. BJP's alliance partner JD(S) too had lost Channapatna bypolls against the grand old party.

Congress's win in Bagalkot is attributed to several factors: a sympathy wave, the consolidation of AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes, and Dalits) votes, and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah treating the bypolls as a prestige issue and investing significant time in campaigning.

The Congress, though happy over Davanagere South win, seems to be not satisfied with the victory margin. Party candidate Samarth's father, SS Mallikarjun, is a minister in the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet and in charge of Davanagere district, while his mother, Prabha Mallikarjun, is a Member of Parliament from the region.

Muslim disgruntlement had been a concern for the Congress in Davanagere South. With 14 of the 25 candidates belonging to the community, the party had apprehensions about a vote split, which proved true when SDPI candidate Afsar Kodlipete received 18,975 votes.

Given its significant presence, Muslims demanded the Congress ticket for Davanagere South, however the party fielded late MLA Shivashankarappa's grandson Samarth. This is said to have caused disgruntlement.

The Congress, after the polls, even took action against some Muslim leaders of the party following allegations of "internal conspiracy" to defeat the candidate in Davanagere South.

The action included MLC K Abdul Jabbar being suspended from primary membership and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah relieving another MLC, Naseer Ahmed, from the post of CM's political secretary.

Following these actions, some Muslim clerics and leaders had openly warned the grand old party.

Speculation was rife that Housing Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan may also face disciplinary measures during the next cabinet reshuffle.

CM Siddaramaiah said this mandate reflects both the achievements of our government and the enduring strength of the Congress party's ideology.

Deputy CM and state Congress chief DK Shivakummar said, "The people have restored faith. They are telling that, again, you (Congress) will have to lead the state, and we will lead Karnataka."

Pointing at the votes garnered by SDPI in Davanagere, he said, "SDPI votes are a big danger for us. We did not expect them to cross so many votes. It's a big setback."

The BJP though they had fought the election unitedly, could not win. State BJP chief BY Vijayendra said, "Even though our candidates did not cross the threshold of victory, they have succeeded in earning the trust of the people to a considerable extent. This will serve as a stepping stone to victories in the coming days." —*PTI*

Davangere South winner Samarth Shamanur; Bagalkot winner Umesh Meti —*SALAR*

Congratulations to Congress candidates Samarth Shamanur and Umesh Meti. This victory is a tribute to our government's people-centric programmess and the tireless efforts of our workers.

-DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

This will serve as a stepping stone to victories in the coming days. Our workers' sincere efforts will not go in vain... There is no need to lose heart from this setback.

-BY Vijayendra, State BJP President

POLLSTERS LOSE KEY TO DAVANGERE STRONG ROOM

Keys to the EVM strongroom for the Davangere South assembly constituency allegedly went missing when officials were set to begin counting the votes. A man instead had to break open the door with a hammer. While this delayed the counting of votes, no claims of vote tampering have been filed yet.

POLITICAL SAVOURY

BJP eats 'Jhalmuri' to celebrate WB win

BENGALURU, 4 MAY

While Karnataka is familiar with 'Churumuri' made of puffed rice, the BJP's victory in West Bengal made its leaders in the southern State savour 'Jhalmuri' on Monday, outside the party office Jagannath Bhavan in Bengaluru. 'Jhalmuri', the Bengali snack, is also made of puffed rice and is universally popular in Bengal.

Party sources said the Bengali community thronged to the BJP's office with loads of Bengali sweets such as Rasgulla, Sandesh, Ras Malai and so on.

On the suggestion of the Bengali community, the party leaders decided to set up 'Jhalmuri' table to serve to the visitors.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had himself walked to a vendor selling 'Jhalmuri' in the middle of the electioneering to eat it.

However, the party leaders' words were less sweet than the snack.

BJP State President BY Vijayendra, LoPs R Ashoka and Chaluvadi Narayanaswamy and others eat sweets and jhalmuri to celebrate wins in Bengal and Assam, at the BJP office in Bengaluru, on Monday —*SALAR*

- 'Jhalmuri', a snack made of puffed rice, is similar to 'Churumuri', common in Karnataka. The Bengali variant gained prominence after PM Narendra Modi ate some from a street vendor while campaigning

Leader of Opposition in Assembly R Ashoka said that election results in West Bengal have shown that people believe that Modi is needed for the country's security, alleging an influx of Bangladeshi "infiltrators" to whom the TMC granted Aadhaar and other necessary documents.

"For nearly 15 years, the Mamata Banerjee government had not allowed the Central forces to fence the border with Bangladesh. It is very clear from the election that people have supported Narendra Modi government at the Centre," he added.

Asked whether the BJP benefited from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Ashoka said there was no question of party benefiting from the SIR.

"Real voters will vote for the national security whereas intruders will back anti-national organisations," he opined. —*PTI*

Surprised by Kerala results, expected defeat in Assam, says CM

BENGALURU, 4 MAY

CM Siddaramaiah on Monday said the Congress had largely met or exceeded expectations in several States.

"In Assam, we got the expected result, and we accept the people's mandate. In Kerala, we have won more seats than expected. We anticipated around 76 to 80," Siddaramaiah said. He pointed to anti-incumbency as being a key factor in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. "I congratulate the new entrant who has achieved success," he added.

Siddaramaiah also congratulated the voters of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for delivering a clear verdict that "the BJP's divisive politics has no place in their states, just as in Karnataka and Telangana".

However, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said electoral outcomes in states like Tamil Nadu and Assam had diverged from the party's internal assessments.

Notably, he had campaigned in Assam.

"We expected a certain trend, but the results have been different. Political reading was wrong in some places.... We have to understand these changes carefully. Political reading cannot go wrong like this," he said. —*PTI*

20 injured as joyride collapses at Gadag fair

GADAG, 4 MAY

More than 20 people, including children and women, were injured after a 'break dance' amusement ride collapsed at the annual fair organised at the premises of the renowned Thontadarya Math here on Sunday night.

The incident reportedly occurred around 9 pm when a loud noise was heard from the 'dancing fly' or 'break dance' ride. Shortly thereafter, a wheel component of the ride snapped, resulting in over 20 seat-like cradles attached to the structure detaching and crashing to the ground.

The injured were immediately rushed to the Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS). Those critically injured were shifted to the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Hubballi. Hospital sources said that at least two persons are said to be in a serious condition.

The mishap triggered panic at the crowded fairgrounds, where a large number of devotees and visitors had gathered for the festivities.

Preliminary investigations point to poor quality of the installation and inadequate safety measures by the organisers as the possible causes of the accident. Police have visited the spot, initiated an inquiry into the collapse of the ride. They also registered a case in the matter. —*Salar News*

4 women rescued, 4 held for City prostitution racket

BENGALURU, 4 MAY

Four people, including two women, were arrested for running a prostitution racket from rented houses in parts of the City, police said on Monday. With their arrest, police also rescued four women who were allegedly forced into prostitution, they said.

The arrests were made following tip-offs received by the Central Crime Branch's Women Protection Unit on different dates, indicating that prostitution activities were being carried out in rented houses located in Padmanabhanagar, RK Layout, Sundarnagar, and NGF Layout of the City, police said.

Based on information provided by informants, raids were conducted at these locations on different dates, they said. "During the operations, four women involved in prostitution were rescued. In connection with the case, a total of four individuals, among them two women who were allegedly forcing others into prostitution, were taken into custody," a statement issued by the office of Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

Upon interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed that they contacted men seeking prostitution services over the phone and arranged for them to visit rented houses, where illegal activities were carried out for monetary gain, it said.

Cases have been registered against the accused and investigation is in progress, police added. —*PTI*

Youth hacked to death by motorist gang in Mandya

MANDYA, 4 MAY

In a shocking incident, a 25-year-old youth was brutally murdered by a group of assailants at Ganjam in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district. The victim, identified as Mohammed Shoaib alias Suheb, was a car dealer and a native of Mysuru.

According to police sources, the incident occurred when Shoaib was travelling on a motorcycle along with his brother-in-law when a gang of four to five unidentified assailants allegedly followed them.

Sensing danger, Shoaib reportedly got off the vehicle and tried to escape by running towards a nearby building and taking shelter inside a room. However, the attackers chased him, forced their way into the premises, and hacked him to death near the entrance using long machetes.

- Shoaib was travelling on a motorcycle along with his brother-in-law when a gang of four to five unidentified assailants allegedly chased them and then murdered Shoaib and fled

The assault was swift and brutal, leaving the victim with fatal injuries on the spot. After the attack, the assailants fled, abandoning the weapons at the scene.

Police said video footage of the incident has surfaced, which is expected to aid the investigation.

SP Shobharani visited the spot. Srirangapatna Town Police are searching for the accused. —*Salar News*

SC seeks report on Darshan's plea on basic amenities in prison

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

The Supreme Court has requested a report from the State government regarding actor Darshan's plea alleging he is being denied basic amenities in prison. The actor, involved in the Renukaswamy murder case, claims he is not receiving essentials such as food. A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan issued a notice to the state government.

- Darshan's advoate claimed that the actor and murder co-accused was being denied basic amenities in prison because the court had earlier said that he shouldn't be given "five star treatement". The Supreme Court then sought a report from the State government regarding Darshan's plea. The report is expected to be delivered within a week.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Darshan, stated that the actor is being denied basic amenities because the court had noted that no five-star treatment should be given in jail. Rohatgi explained, "This is that case in which my Lords were pleased to cancel the bail of this petitioner. Your Lordships made an observation in the order that he should not get five-star treatment in jail. Due to that direction, I am not even given basic amenities." The court had previously cancelled Darshan's bail on August 14 last year. Rohatgi added that Darshan, kept in a quarantine cell with no light, is not receiving food. The court took note of this and sought a report from the judge on the trial's progress, including witness examination and estimated conclusion time.

It also inquired whether Darshan is receiving the basic amenities entitled to an undertrial. The registry was instructed to receive reports within a week. —*PTI*

POWER FAILURE HITS COMMUTERS

Cubbon Metro halted due to outage

BENGALURU, 4 MAY

Operations at Cubbon Park Metro Station in Bengaluru were suspended on Monday morning after a power outage disrupted services. BMRCL announced the temporary closure at 7.26am on Monday and confirmed the restoration of normal services at 11am the same day.

With Cubbon Park station being a key access point, passengers have been forced to adjust their routes at short notice. The disruption triggered frustration among passengers, many of whom questioned the reliability of metro services at a key Bengaluru station on the Purple Line.

As early as 9am, Purple Line passengers saw a notice on the time display boards stating: "Cubbon Park metro station is closed and trains are not stopping there. The rest of the line remains operational."

Reports suggest that the brief power outage at the Cubbon Park Metro station on Monday morning was due to rainfall —*X*

Passengers said the station was pitch dark when the disruption occurred, with only the lights from passing trains offering some visibility. Commuters reportedly turn on their phone torch lights to navigate the platform and access areas.

Reports suggest that the disruption followed a spell of intense rainfall that swept across parts of Bengaluru in the early hours of the day.

Although the rain was brief, it was strong enough to impact infrastructure, leading to the power failure at the centrally located Metro stop. BMRCL has not specified the exact cause of the power failure.

The Cubbon Park station remains one of the most important access points to Vidhana Soudha, MG Road, Cubbon Park and the Chinnaswamy Stadium area. —*Agencies*

READY FOR HAJJ

CM Siddaramaiah presented the passports and tickets to Hajj pilgrims during the inauguration of the Hajj flights, in Bengaluru on Monday. Hajj is an annual pilgrimage that Muslim take to Mecca, their holiest city —*SALAR*

APPADI PODU! VIJAY STORMS TN

Tamil Nadu voted for change, with actor Vijay making history as the state's first Christian CM, only 2 yrs after joining electoral politics

In a jolt to the DMK, incumbent CM MK Stalin lost his Kolathur seat to former ally and TVK leader VS Babu

BIG WINNER

VS BABU
KOLATHUR
TVK

WON BY: 8,795 VOTES

UDHAYANIDHI STALIN
CHEPAUK-THIRUVALLIKENI
DMK

WON BY: 7,140 VOTES

O PANNEERSELVAM
BODINAYAKANUR
DMK

WON BY: 6,805 VOTES

EDAPPADI PALANISWAMI K
EDAPPADI, AIADMK

WON BY: 98,110 VOTES

V SENTHILBALAJI
COIMBATORE (SOUTH)
DMK

WON BY: 2,271 VOTES

THENNARASU K
SRIPERUMBUDUR
TVK

WON BY: 54,246 VOTES

LAKSHMANAN S
SALEM (WEST)
TVK

WON BY: 74,867 VOTES

BALAKRISHNAREDDY P
HOSUR
AIADMK

WON BY: 27,803 VOTES

VENKATARAMANAN P
MYLAPORE
TVK

WON BY: 28,972 VOTES

MR VIJAYABHASKAR
KARUR
AIADKM

WON BY: 1,821 VOTES

(From top) Vijay's family members celebrate as polls show him leading; a woman holds a cut out of the actor-politician; fans celebrate in Chennai, on Monday —PTI

SON OF VIJAY'S DRIVER

R Sabarinathan (right), the 30-year-old son of actor-politician Vijay's long-time driver and personal assistant Rajendran, has won in the Virugambakkam assembly here. Sabarinathan, contesting on a Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) ticket, won by 27,086 votes, according to the latest Election Commission figures.

Vijay's historic rise has destroyed TN's stalwarts

CHENNAI, 4 MAY

Actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on Monday created electoral history in Tamil Nadu and emerged as the single largest party by sweeping away the DMK and AIADMK. This is the first time since 1967 that a party other than the other two Dravidian heavyweights won the state. Vijay will also be the first person from a minority religion – Christian – to lead the state. This is also the first time that Tamil Nadu is electing such a young party.

CM MK Stalin lost his Kolathur constituency, and his party was relegated to the second position, while the Edappadi Palaniswami's AIADMK was pushed to a distant third spot.

Vijay's rise, barely over two years after entering into electoral politics echoes the state's love for film stars turned politicians. When his movie 'Thalaiva (The Leader, 2013)' had the tagline "Born to Lead," it gave a first, clear hint of his political ambition.

He padded this on with films about social issues like 'Kaththi' (2014), 'Mersal' (2017) and 'Sarkar' (2018).

He added elements of Dravidian ideology in formulating his party's ideology, while maintaining a hyper-local focus.

Notably, TVK had refused alliance offers from the DMK and AIADMK-BJP. Vijay even asserted that the polls would be a two-way fight between the TVK and DMK.

However, Vijay has said he could share power with like-minded parties, and this is expected to open a new chapter in state's history.

TVK Chief Vijay greets supporters from the residence of his father SA Chandrasekhar, in Chennai on Monday —PTI

> **I am only his father. He is my leader.... For Tamil Nadu, he has so many dreams in his mind. Let him do the work**
>
> —SA Chandrasekhar, filmmaker and Vijay's dad

TVK supporters have posted on social media that parties which won small numbers of seats like the Congress, IUML Left parties, VCK and PMK may join hands with their party. Many of them are currently part of the SDA led by the DMK. The TVK needs 118 seats to form a government.

Vijay's campaign was no doubt marred by the Karur stampede, where at least 41 people died, but the spark he created among the youth and his penetration on social media brought dividends.

About 25-30 years ago, he was described as cute. Today, he is called 'Thalapathy' (commander). —PTI

Vijay pulls off a Kejriwal 10 yrs later

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

Vijay's debut victory draws closes parallels with the rise of Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi over a decade ago.

Vijay and his TVK ended decades-long DMK-AIADMK sway over the state politics, as Kejriwal and his AAP did to the BJP and Congress in Delhi. AAP had formed a minority government in Delhi after its maiden election in December 2013, a year after the party was founded, and then went on to win the 2015 Assembly polls with a brute majority. Kejriwal decimated the BJP and Congress to become the CM and hold the post until 2024.

Kejriwal's rise was rooted in an intense anti-corruption movement that swept India around 2010. Similarly, Vijay vowed to fight against corruption and dynastic politics. The two also comfortably used freebies.

However, Kejriwal, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer turned activist, was able to rally the support of the people with his "common man" persona, while Vijay drew on his huge stardom.

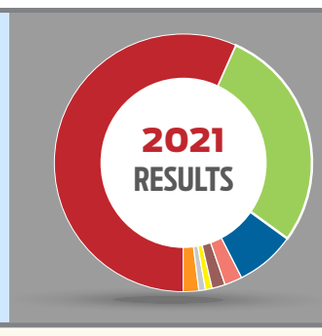
While AAP managed to completely drain Congress votes in 2015, the TVK also appears to be benefiting from the dual setup of DMK-AIADMK. Both parties also have opaque ideologies. —PTI

ADMK	(21.23%)	INC	(3.36%)
AIFB	(0.01%)	IUML	(0.29%)
BJP	(2.97%)	NOTA	(0.41%)
BSP	(0.11%)	NTK	(4.00%)
CPI	(0.66%)	RJD	(0.00%)
CPI(M)	(0.60%)	TVK	(34.92%)
CPI(ML)(L)	(0.01%)	VCK	(1.10%)
DMDK	(1.19%)	OTHERS	(4.96%)
DMK	(24.19%)		

ALLIANCES AND PARTIES

● SDA: DMK, Cong, VCK, DMDK and CPI/CPI(M) ● NDA: AIADMK, BJP, PMK, AMMK, ● TVK ● NTK

> **I bow down to the people of TN for your verdict. Happy to see in my land, people have risen in one voice and spoken; no to buying of votes, no to dynastic politics and yes to a generational shift in politics.**
>
> — K Annamalai, ex TN BJP chief



DMK	133
AIADMK	66
Cong	18
PMK	5
VCK	4
CPI(M)	2
CPI	2
BJP	4

WHAT TVK PROMISED

1. ₹2,500 monthly aid for female heads of families.
2. 6 free cooking gas cylinders per year for every household.
3. 200 units of free power for all households.
4. A baby welcome kit including a gold ring for every newborn.
5. ₹4,000 per month for unemployed graduates (aged 29+) and ₹2,500 for diploma holders.

From MGR to NTR: Vijay follows footsteps of film stars

Vijay's rise mirrors that of Andhra Pradesh's TDP founder, actor, and former CM NT Rama Rao (NTR), where both achieved massive electoral success within two years of founding their respective parties. However, Vijay also sought to portray himself as the spiritual successor of late Tamil Nadu CM MG Ramachandran (MGR), also a film star and founder of the AIADMK, by garlanding the stalwart's statue in Trichy. Movie stars entering politics is not uncommon in South India, with actress Jayalalitha also becoming a stalwart of Tamil Nadu politics.

Vijay's fan slits throat when polls show him losing

A fan of Vijay, 28-year-old K Mahendran from the Krishnagiri area, allegedly slit his throat outside his home when early trends showed the actor-politician as trailing, according to news reports. Onlookers rescued took him to a hospital where is is recieving treatment.

Can EPS emerge from Amma's shadow?

CHENNAI, 4 MAY

For AIADMK Chief Edappadi K Palaniswami, electoral triumphs under his leadership have been elusive. Monday was no different.

The defeat is likely to raise questions over Palaniswami's leadership, especially after he squeezed the AIADMK from O Panneerselvam, who later joined the DMK.

Palaniswami literally shot into prominence after the death of 'Amma' J Jayalalithaa.

An avid fan of AIADMK founder MGR, EPS worked as a grassroots leader for years before his successful debut from Edappadi in 1974.

He handled highways and minor ports portfolios, during the Jayalalithaa-led AIADMK governmet. EPS also briefly served as a CM in 2017, after Jayalalitha's death and winning the AIADMK's legislative party election, taking the post from OPS who was the CM at the time. —PTI

A LOSS FOR THE FIREBAND

Stalin's Dravidian 2.0 dream in limbo

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

In 2026, MK Stalin was confident of accomplishing a feat his father and Dravidian stalwart M Karunanidhi could not in his over 50 years of political career--leading DMK to successive electoral wins.

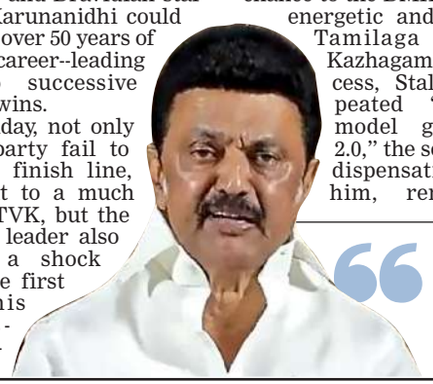
On Monday, not only did his party fail to cross the finish line, losing out to a much younger TVK, but the top DMK leader also suffered a shock defeat, the first in his decades-old political career.

As the counting of votes progressed across Tamil Nadu on Monday, the trends gave no chance to the DMK against an energetic and resurgent Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. In the process, Stalin's oft-repeated "Dravidian model government 2.0," the second DMK dispensation under him, remained a dream.

Born in 1953, Stalin was allegedly detained under the stringent Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) during Emergency and later rose through the party ranks.

One of Stalin's key initiatives as the DMK President has been the formation of the 'Secular Progressive Alliance,' which sought to bring together like-minded parties. The alliance has several political parties, including Congress, and has emerged as a formidable opposition force in the state, having won all polls since the 2019 Parliamentary elections, before 2026 proved otherwise.

Seen as an effective anti-BJP face, Stalin had to face frequent clashes with the Lok Bhavan, especially when RN Ravi was the state Governor, during his stint as CM. —PTI



> **We bow to and accept the verdict of the people. Congratulations to the victors! In the past five years, we have created numerous projects and provided good governance to the people of Tamil Nadu. We have elevated Tamil Nadu in every way. In the electoral arena, we sought votes only by speaking of our achievements.**
>
> —MK Stalin, Outgoing CM

BIG LOSERS

MK STALIN
KOLATHUR
DMK

LOST BY: 8,795 VOTES

DURAI MURUGAN
KATPADI
DMK

LOST BY: 7,643 VOTES

ANBIL MAHESH POYYAMOZHI
THIRUVERUMBUR, DMK

LOST BY: 8,705 VOTES

TRB RAJA
MANNARGUDI
DMK

LOST BY: 1,566 VOTES

R GANDHI
RANIPET
DMK

LOST BY: 5,787 VOTES

V SENTHILKUMAR
COIMBATORE (SOUTH)
TVK

LOST BY: 2,271 VOTES

K SELVAPERUNTHAGAI
SRIPERUMBUDUR
CONG

LOST BY: 54,246 VOTES

TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN
MYLAPORE, BJP

LOST BY: 28,972 VOTES

SUNDAR C
MADURAI (CENTRAL)
AIADMK

LOST BY: 29,876 VOTES

NAGESH KUMAR C
THALLI
BJP

LOST BY: 5,240 VOTES

UDF SWEEPS KERALA, PUSHES LDF OUT

Chief Minister Vijayan himself faced a tough contest in his home turf of Dharmadam, and was often seen trailing during the counting

The UDF led by the Congress exploited the LDF's shortcomings, and capitalised on the massive anti-incumbency wave

BIG WINNER

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
DHARMADOM
CPI (M)

WON BY: 19,247 VOTES

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
NEMOM, BJP

WON BY: 4,978 VOTES

VD SATHEESAN
PARAVUR,
CONG

WON BY: 20,600 VOTES

CHANDY OOMMEN
PUTHUPALLY
CONG

WON BY: 52,907 VOTES

PA MOHAMMED RIYAS
BEYPORE
CPI (M)

WON BY: 7,487 VOTES

MATHEW KUZHALNADAN
MUVATTUPUZHA, CONG

WON BY: 42,829 VOTES

V MURALIDHARAN
KAZHAKOOTAM
BJP

WON BY: 428 VOTES

FATHIMA THAHILIYA
PERAMBRA,
IUML

WON BY: 5,087 VOTES

RAMESH CHENNITHALA
HARIPAD
CONG

WON BY: 23,377 VOTES

RAMESH PISHARODY
PAKLAKKAD
CONG

WON BY: 13,147 VOTES

AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan celebrates with MP KC Venugopal as the Congress romps home in the Kerala Assembly election—*PTI*

Congress workers celebrate during vote tabulation on the day of Kerala Assembly election results in Thiruvananthapuram —*PTI*

BJP Kerala President and its candidate from Nemom, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, celebrates during vote tabulation on the day of state Assembly election results in Thiruvananthapuram —*PTI*

Vijayan era ends as Kerala turns a new page

T'PURAM, 4 MAY

The date 4 May 2026 may be a defining moment in Kerala's political history, marking not just the defeat of the CPI(M)-led LDF but also a turning point for Pinarayi Vijayan, one of the state's most dominant leaders.

After 16 years at the CPI(M)'s helm, followed by two consecutive terms as CM, his long run in power ended in an electoral setback.

Vijayan, 81, rose from a working-class background to lead Kerala at a time when his party, the CPI(M), was itself transitioning away from its older leadership mould.

Over the years, he grew into an unchallenged centre of authority, running both the party and the government with a firm grip.

He first became CM in 2016 and went on to secure a second term in 2021.

Known as a firm, disciplined leader, he built a reputation as a tough organiser during his tenure as CPI(M)'s state secretary.

In 2026, Vijayan once again led the Left into the Assembly election, seeking a rare third consecutive term. But this time, the tide turned, with the CPI(M)-led LDF losing ground, including in its strongholds in Kannur, his home district.

Vijayan himself faced a tough contest in his home turf of Dharmadam, often trailing during the counting. For many observers, the result marked a sharp political shift after a decade of leadership.

Vijayan played a key role in pushing through major infrastructure projects that were once considered difficult to implement in Kerala.

The GAIL gas pipeline project, the Vizhinjam International Seaport and NH development were considered his successes as land acquisition was carried out at a fast pace.

A hard taskmaster and pragmatic administrator the two-time CM and longest-serving CPI(M) state secretary earned many epithets over his decades-long political career.

Congress MP KC Venugopal offers sweets to the Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, VD Satheesan, in T'puram on Monday— (PTI)

> **The LDF's misrule was so much that people got fed up. Congress came up with its guarantees and its manifesto based on development, youth, infrastructure projects, medical tourism and MSMEs**
> -Mansoor Ali Khan, AICC Secretary

An organisational man and a man of few words, Vijayan weathered many storms while leading the party for 16 years and the state for two consecutive terms.

He was hailed as a "double-hearted comrade" by some of his supporters within the party.

However, his unyielding nature made his opponents brand him a "dictator."

Vijayan was born in 1944 to Mundayil Koran and Kalyani in Pinarayi in Kannur district.

He became the Kannur district secretary of the Kerala Students Federation while studying BA (Economics) at Brennen College in Thalassery, and also worked as a handloom weaver after his schooling.

In 1968, at the age of 24, Vijayan became a member of the CPI(M) Kannur district committee. Two years later, he was fielded from Koothuparamba and became an MLA.

He had a brief stint as Kerala's Power Minister from 1996 to 1998. However, allegations linked to the SNC-Lavalin case, related to awarding contracts to a Canadian company for modernising hydel projects, dogged him for years.

Vijayan consistently maintained that the case was politically driven and that there was nothing illegal.

During his tenure as state secretary tensions between him and rival VS Achuthanandan came to the fore leading to both being suspended from the politburo in 2007.

Controversies, including the 2012 murder of RMP leader TP Chandrasekharan, also cast a shadow during his tenure as party secretary.

From handling the Nipah outbreak and the Covid-19 pandemic to dealing with floods and Cyclone Ockhi, he projected himself as a leader focused on the state's interests.

His tenure was marked by controversies like the gold smuggling case, the dollar smuggling case, the Sprinklr deal, and allegations involving his former principal secretary, M Sivasankar. — *PTI*

BIG LOSERS

JOSE K MANI
PALA,
CONGRESS (M)

LOST BY: 2,991 VOTES

GEORGE KURIAN
KANJIRAPPALLY
BJP

LOST BY: 29,585 VOTES

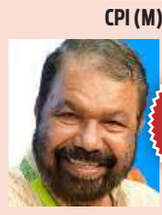
KK SHAILAJA TEACHER
PERAVOOR
CPI (M)

LOST BY: 14,453 VOTES

K SURENDRAN
MANJESHWAR
BJP

LOST BY: 29,252 VOTES

V SIVANKUTTY
NEMOM
CPI (M)



LOST BY: 4,978 VOTES

PC GEORGE
POONJAR
BJP

LOST BY: 20,728 VOTES

VEENA GEORGE
ARANMULA
CPI (M)

LOST BY: 18,985 VOTES

KB GANESH KUMAR
PATHANAPURAM
KC(B)

LOST BY: 8,310 VOTES

RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPALLY
KANNUR, CONG (S)

LOST BY: 18,551 VOTES

MB RAJESH
THRITHALA
CPI (M)

LOST BY: 8,385 VOTES

AAAP	(0.17%)	KEC	(2.43%)
BJP	(11.42%)	KEC (M)	(2.43%)
BSP	(0.15%)	NCP	(0.00%)
CPI	(6.64%)	NCPSP	(0.68%)
CPI (M)	(21.77%)	NOTA	(0.57%)
CPI(ML) (L)	(0.00%)	RJD	(0.82%)
INC	(28.79%)	RSP	(1.21%)
IUML	(11.01%)	Other	(11.71%)

> **The election results reflect the ascendancy of right-wing 'communal' forces led by the BJP. It is a matter of deep concern for all secular, progressive, democratic forces** — CPI(M)

CPI	62
CONG	22
CPI(M)	17
IUML	15
KC(M)	5
OTHERS	11

ALLIANCES AND PARTIES • **LDF:** CPI(M), CPI, Kerala Congress (Mani) • **UDF:** Congress, IUML, Kerala Congress (Joseph), Kerala Congress (Jacob) • **NDA:** BJP, Bharat Dharma Jana Sena

WHAT UDF PROMISED

1. Free bus travel for women.
2. ₹1,000 monthly aid for college girls.
3. ₹3,000 social welfare pension.
4. ₹25 lakh free health insurance per family.
5. Interest-free loans up to Rs ₹ 5 lakh for entrepreneurs.

CPI(M) rebel Sudhakaran wins Ambalapuzha

Former CPI(M) leader G Sudhakaran, who quit the party ahead of the 9 April Assembly polls and contested as a UDF-backed Independent, won from Ambalapuzha by 27,935 votes. While Sudhakaran garnered 75,184 votes, his former party colleague H Salam got only 47,249 votes.

Kerala goes back to performance review

Kerala has a pattern of switching governments between the two fronts, UDF and LDF, headed by the Congress and the CPM respectively. Since the 1980s, Kerala voters have voted to power one front and removed it the next time. This is actually a performance-based review.

11 women MLAs make it this time in Kerala

The 16th Kerala Assembly will have 11 women MLAs, one less than in the previous House. The previous Assembly had 12 women legislators, most of them from the CPI(M). This time, the CPI(M) will have only one woman MLA, OS Ambika, who won from Attingal.

BJP makes modest breakthrough in Kerala

T'PURAM, 4 MAY

Rajeev Chandrasekhar led BJP's modest breakthrough in Kerala by winning three seats. One is Nemom, where he defeated the CPI(M)'s education minister Sivankutty. The other is Kazhakootam where V Muralidharan emerged victorious by 428 votes. The BJP also won Chathanoor where its candidate BB Gopakumar won by 4,398 votes.

Chandrasekhar has succeeded in changing the BJP's fortunes in Kerala, beginning with the BJP wresting the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation from the CPI(M).

The BJP now has three seats, a big jump as it had no representation in the previous Assembly.

Chandrasekhar is a computer science graduate from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. — PTI

TOTAL ROUT

13 of 21 LDF ministers bite the dust

T'PURAM, 4 MAY

Thirteen members of the 21-member LDF cabinet led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan were defeated in the Kerala Assembly elections as the ruling front suffered a major setback.

Of the 21 ministers, only the Chief Minister, K Rajan (Revenue), GR Anil (Civil Supplies), KN Balagopal (Finance), P Prasad (Agriculture), and Saji Cherian (Cultural Affairs) emerged victorious.

Among the losers was Health Minister Veena George, who was contesting from Aranmula for the third time.Veena lost to Congress candidate Abin Varkey by 18,985 votes.

Devaswom Minister VN Vasavan, considered a popular cabinet member, lost to Congress candidate Nattakom Suresh by 19,752 votes in Ettumanoor. Education Minister V Sivankutty put up a close fight against BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar in Nemom in Thiruvananthapuram but lost by over 3,500 votes. Another high-profile defeat was that of Kerala Congress (B) leader Transport Minister KB Ganesh Kumar. e lost to Congress candidate Jyothi Kumar Chamakkala by 8,310 votes.

LDF Minister Roshy Augustine of Kerala Congress (M) also suffered a heavy defeat in Idukki, losing to Congress candidate Roy K Paulose by 23,822 votes. Industries Minister P Rajeev was defeated in Kalamassery in Ernakulam district, losing to IUML leader VE Abdul Gafoor by 16,312 votes. CPI minister J Chinchurani lost to Congress candidate MM Naseer by over 7,400 votes in Chadayamangalam.

Minister Kadannappally Ramachandran of the Congress (S) was defeated by Congress candidate TO Mohanan by over 18,530 votes.

Minister OR Kelu lost to Congress candidate Usha Vijayan by 10,543 votes in Mananthavady. Another surprise defeat was that of NCP (SP) minister AK Saseendran, who lost by 12,162 votes in Elathur to Congress candidate Vidya Balakrishnan. Local Self-Government Minister MB Rajesh was another casualty of the UDF wave, losing to Congress leader VT Balram by 8,385 votes. Higher Education Minister R Bindu lost to Kerala Congress leader Thomas Unniyadan in Irinjalakuda by 10,212 votes.

Sports Minister V Abdurahiman, lost to IUML's Kurukkoli Moideen by 24,137 votes in Tirur. — PTI

DIDI-N'T SEE THIS COMING: WB TURNS SAFFRON

BJP breaks TMC's 15-year hold in West Bengal with two-thirds majority, forcing Didi into her most severe political setback since 2011

BJP's Bengal win is driven by erosion of TMC's semi-urban support base and swing in 177 key constituencies

BIG WINNER

SUVENDU ADHIKARI
BHABANIPUR
BJP

WON BY: 15,105 VOTES

SUVENDU ADHIKARI
NANDIGRAM
BJP

WON BY: 9,665 VOTES

DILIP GHOSH
KHARAGPUR SADAR
BJP

WON BY: 30,506 VOTES

HUMAYUN KABIR
REJINAGAR
AJUP

WON BY: 58,876 VOTES

FIRHAD HAKIM
KOLKATA PORT
TMC

WON BY: 56,080 VOTES

BIMAN BANERJEE
BARUIPUR PASCHIM
TMC

WON BY: 17,862 VOTES

RUPA GANGULY
SONARPUR DAKSHIN
BJP

WON BY: 35,782 VOTES

SUBRATA MAITRA
BAHARAMPUR
BJP

WON BY: 17,548 VOTES

AGNIMITRA PAUL
ASANSOL DAKSHIN
BJP

WON BY: 40,839 VOTES

PRASUN BANERJEE
CHANCHAL
TMC

WON BY: 63,874 VOTES

A BJP flag flies high as a TMC supporter, with party symbols painted on his body, reacts while watching election updates on Monday. TMC supporters break down in Kolkata, even as BJP workers burst crackers and celebrate —*PTI*

Fighter Mamata faces toughest challenge

KOLKATA, 4 MAY

West Bengal's Assembly verdict signals more than a change of government; it marks a structural rupture in the political order built by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the past 15 years, pushing TMC into its most consequential phase of recalibration.

For a party that has defined Bengal since 2011, the defeat is not merely electoral but systemic. BJP's decisive breach has disrupted a model anchored in centralised authority, welfare delivery and a tightly controlled organisational pyramid.

Numbers tell a story

The numbers underline the churn. BJP's vote share rose to around 44.8 per cent from 38 per cent in 2021, while the TMC slipped to nearly 41.7 per cent from 48 per cent, reflecting erosion in its social coalition, particularly in semi-urban belts. In 177 constituencies where voter deletions during the Special Intensive Revision exceeded past victory margins, the BJP not only held ground but made inroads into TMC strongholds.

Observers describe the shift as a redistribution of political ground rather than a conventional wave, the BJP emerging as a system-altering force. Unlike parties such as AAP, which expanded beyond Delhi, TMC remains Bengal-centric, amplifying the scale of the setback.

Internally, the implications are immediate. A party long sustained by administrative control and patronage now struggles to hold its organisation together without those levers. In the absence of strong ideological cohesion, defections remain a possibility.

Leadership stuck at a crossroad

For Banerjee, this is a defining moment. After three terms in office, the setback blurs the line between personal and political loss. At 71, the road to a comeback appears steeper, though her politics has historically thrived in resistance. Stripped of power, she may seek to recalibrate the TMC into a combative opposition force.

The spotlight is now on Abhishek Banerjee, the party's self-styled "senapati", who oversaw candidate selection, organisational resets and messaging. From a derided "bhaipo" (Mamata's nephew) to the architect of the TMC's campaign, his rise has been central to the party's recent strategy. Dropping or shifting over 70 MLAs, he bet on renewal over patronage, but the gamble failed, leaving him facing his first major test outside power.

Anti-incumbency, corruption allegations, recruitment scams and bureaucratic fatigue further narrowed TMC's room for manoeuvre, while a more cohesive BJP campaign capitalised on these vulnerabilities, sweeping across border districts, tribal belts and industrial regions.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with media on the day of Assembly election results in Kolkata on Monday —*PTI*

> **It is a triumph of the patience of those families who, even while enduring violence, never abandoned the saffron flag...The people of Bengal have taught such a lesson to the infiltrators and their sympathisers that the parties indulging in the politics of appeasement will never be able to forget.**
>
> —Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

For BJP, the victory marks a long-sought breakthrough, though governing a politically charged state with a resilient opposition will pose its own challenges.

For TMC, the immediate challenge is not reclaiming power but redefining itself without it. The verdict closes a political arc that began with Banerjee dismantling the 34-year Left Front regime and opens an uncertain new chapter.

Election extraordinary

West Bengal resembled a battleground this election, literally. There was sporadic, widespread violence. Bombs were hurled, voters lathicharged, candidates thrashed, and party members clashed. During polling, several districts reported unrest despite heavy security deployment. Post-poll violence further escalated tensions. Banerjee urged party workers to remain vigilant, alleging a "game plan" by the BJP and Election Commission to show early leads for the saffron party. Scuffles were reported at a counting centre in Barrackpore, while clashes broke out in Dinhata.

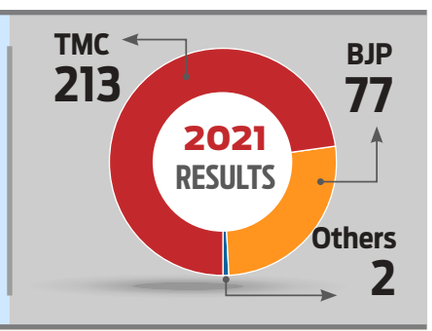
No victory poll rally

Seeking to prevent post-poll unrest, Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal barred victory rallies on Monday, allowing them only from the following day and only with police permission. —*PTI*

AIFB	(0.28%)	CPI(ML)	(0.07%)
AIMIM	(0.09%)	INC	(2.97%)
TMC	(40.80%)	IUML	(0.01%)
BJP	(45.84%)	NOTA	(0.78%)
BSP	(0.18%)	RASLJP	(0.01%)
CPI	(0.16%)	RSP	(0.10%)
CPI(M)	(4.45%)	OTHERS	(4.27%)

ALLIANCES AND PARTIES
● TMC ● Left: CPI(M), CPI, AIFB, RSP, CPI(ML)
● BJP, AJSU ● Cong ● AIMIM ● AJUP

> **Defeating Mamata Banerjee was crucial. This victory is a victory for Hindutva... BJP's record win in West Bengal would not be possible without the efforts and struggles of countless Karyakartas over generations.**
> -Suvendu Adhikari, BJP leader



WHAT BJP PROMISED

1. Implement UCC within 6 months.
2. Detect, delete, and deport illegal immigrants.
3. ₹3,000 per month for every woman and unemployed youth.
4. 33% reservation for women in all state government jobs.
5. Create 1 crore jobs.

RG Kar rape victim's mom breaches TMC bastion

Almost two years after her daughter's rape and murder, Ratna Debnath won Panihati — defeating BJP's Tirthankar Ghosh. While, Sanjay Roy is jailed, Ratna moved the court alleging TMC is protecting "other perpetrators", turning this into a fight for justice.

BJP romps home in TMC bastion Sandeshkhali

BJP won TMC's Sandeshkhali bastion; Sanat Sardar defeating Jharna Sardar. This is two years after the seat made headlines in over assault and land grabbing allegations of against TMC leader Sheikh Shahjahan. After evading arrest he was held in February 2024.

WB Central forces: SC rejects hearing plea

The Supreme Court refused an urgent plea for the continuation of Central forces in West Bengal after polls ended to curb post-election violence, stating that such decisions rest with the executive. The plea cited large-scale post-poll violence in the state in 2021.

TMC Bengal offices vandalised, BJP denies involvement

KOLKATA, 4 MAY

Following the BJP's victory in the Assembly polls, TMC offices across West Bengal were allegedly defaced and damaged. BJP denied any involvement, officials said on Monday.

TMC claimed its offices in Baruipur, Tufanganj and Panihati were vandalised after poll trends cleared, with photos of Mamata Banerjee allegedly thrown to the ground at Baruipur.

A senior officer said police dispersed the crowd outside the party office.

A TMC office in Jamuria was allegedly set on fire.

In Panihati, the party alleged that signboards and flags were replaced with BJP colours and symbols.

TMC candidate from Nowapara in North 24 Parganas, Trinankur Bhattacharya, was allegedly beaten up by BJP supporters in Barrackpore. BJP Nowapara candidate Arjun Singh has denied these allegations. —*PTI*

BAHARAMPUR DEFEAT

Adhir Chowdhury is Cong's fading stalwart

KOLKATA, 4 MAY

The defeat of senior Congress leader **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury**, one of the most enduring, combative faces of the Congress in West Bengal, in Baharampur positions him as a fading stalwart, rather than a challenger to the BJP in West Bengal.

Chowdhury was vanquished by BJP's Subrata Maitra, who retained Baharampur by marginally improving on his 2021 performance, by a margin of 17,548 votes.

The Congress leader's nomination from his home turf of Baharampur in Murshidabad was widely viewed as a "comeback bid" to the state's political arena after three decades.

His loss comes at a time when the party he leads continues to struggle to maintain relevance in the state, managing just two wins amid the saffron surge.

A five-time MP from Baharampur, Chowdhury rose from grassroots politics in Murshidabad to become a central figure in both state and national politics.

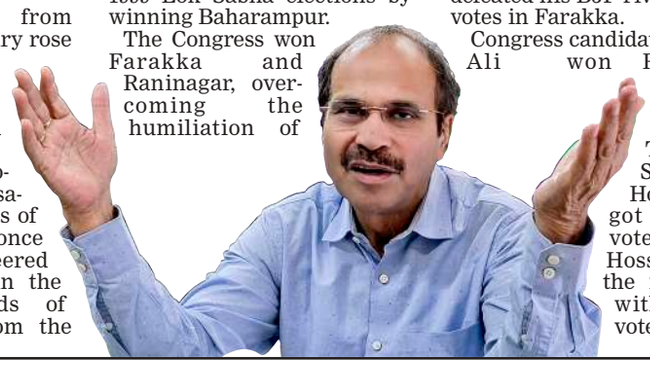
Known for his outspoken style and organisational grip over pockets of central Bengal, he once "single-handedly steered the Congress boat" in the state during periods of decline, emerging from the shadow of stalwarts like Pranab Mukherjee to build his own political base.

He first entered the Bengal assembly in 1996 and later made a breakthrough in the 1999 Lok Sabha elections by winning Baharampur.

The Congress won Farakka and Raninagar, overcoming the humiliation of not winning a single seat in the 2021 assembly election.

Motab Shaikh, whose name was initially not in the electoral rolls and was included by a tribunal appointed by the SC, defeated his BJP rival by 8,193 votes in Farakka.

Congress candidate Julfikar Ali won Raninagar by 2,701 votes defeating TMC's Soumik Hossain. Ali got 79,423 votes, while Hossain was the runner-up with 76,722 votes. —*PTI*



BIG LOSERS

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY
BAHARAMPUR, CONG

LOST BY: 17,548 VOTES

PABITRA KAR
NANDIGRAM
TMC

LOST BY: 9,665 VOTES

SUBHENDU SARKAR
KUMARGANJ
BJP

LOST BY: 6,685 VOTES

BIKASHRANJAN BHATTACHARYA
JADAVPUR, CPI(M)

LOST BY: 65,051 VOTES

JYOTIPRIYA MALLICK
HABRA, TMC

LOST BY: 31,462 VOTES

BRATYA BASU
TMC
DUM DUM

LOST BY: 25,273 VOTES

MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA
TMC, SABANG

LOST BY: 11,136 VOTES

SHASHI PANJA
SHYAMPUKUR
TMC

LOST BY: 14,633 VOTES

CHANDRIMA BHATTACHARYA
TMC, DUM DUM UTTAR

LOST BY: 26,404 VOTES

SNEHASIS CHAKRABORTY
JANGIPARA, MC

LOST BY: 862 VOTES

WITH 101, NDA HITS HAT-TRICK IN ASSAM

This is the first time since Independence that an alliance bagged more than 100 seats

It is also the first instance of a party other than Congress securing an absolute majority on its own

BIG WINNER

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA
JALUKBARI , BJP

WON BY: 89,434 VOTES

HITENDRA NATH GOSWAMI
JORHAT , BJP

WON BY: 23,182 VOTES

AJANTA NEOG
GOLAGHAT
BJP

WON BY: 43,759 VOTES

PRADYUT BORDOLOI
DISPUR
BJP

WON BY: 49,667 VOTES

VIJAY KUMAR GUPTA
GUWAHATI CENTRAL
BJP

WON BY: 61,921 VOTES

RANOJ PEGU
DHEMAJI
BJP

WON BY: 32,229 VOTES

BADRUDDIN AJMAL
BINNAKANDI
AIUDF

WON BY: 35,380 VOTES

AKHIL GOGOI
RAIJOR DAL
SIBSAGAR

WON BY: 17,272 VOTES

JIBAN GOGOI
SISSIBARGAON
BJP

WON BY: 40,593 VOTES

KESHAB MAHANTA
KALIABOR
AGP

WON BY: 17,890 VOTES

BJP workers and supporters celebrate as their party takes lead during the result declaration day of the Assam Assembly elections, in Guwahati —*PTI*

Himanta Sarma: Man who kept the 'Lotus' blooming

GUWAHATI, 4 MAY

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma retained the Jalukbari seat by a margin of 89,434 votes, reaffirming his political dominance even as his tenure continues to draw both strong support and sharp criticism.

The result capped a resounding mandate for the ruling NDA, which has won or is leading in 102 of the 126 Assembly seats, comfortably crossing the majority mark of 64. BJP alone secured 81 seats and was ahead in one more constituency, while its allies —Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) — won 10 seats each, according to Election Commission data.

For the first time since Independence, an alliance has crossed the 100-seat mark in Assam. It is also the first instance of a party other than the Congress securing an absolute majority on its own. Earlier non-Congress governments, including BJP-led regimes in 2016 and 2021, did not see any single party breach the halfway mark independently.

The scale of the victory carries national implications, strengthening the BJP's narrative of state-level dominance ahead of other Assembly elections in 2026 and the 2029 Lok Sabha cycle.

Widely credited with expanding the BJP's footprint in Assam and across the Northeast after switching from the Congress in 2015, Sarma rose to the chief minister's post in 2021 following years of calculated political groundwork. Once regarded as among the most influential politicians in the region, he has since emerged as a key BJP campaign-er, aggressively advocating the party's core agenda in poll-bound states.

Since assuming office, the 57-year-old leader has pushed a range of development initi-atives, rolling out welfare schemes and focusing on safeguarding the land rights of in-digenous communities. At the same time, his tenure has attracted criticism from oppo-sition parties, which accuse him of deepening social polarisation.

These allegations stem from measures such as eviction drives on alleged encroached land, a crackdown on child marriage, action against polygamy, enforcement of the Cat-tle Protection Act, closure and conversion of govern-ment-run madrasas, and the demo-lition of certain religious structures.

Congress has also repeatedly alleged corruption during his tenure and questioned the business dealings of his wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, charges the Chief Minister has de-nied. Sarma has remained defiant through controversies, including a row triggered by remarks from Congress leader Pawan Khera, which escalated into a sharp exchange and was noted in a Supreme Court order granting relief to Khera. Political analysts, however, have criticised Sarma's rhetoric as divisive and unbecoming of a constitution-al office-holder.

After losing his electoral debut in 1996, Sarma has represented Jalukbari continuously since 2001, winning as both a Congress and BJP candidate. A minister in successive governments since 2001, he built a reputation for administrative effectiveness and po-litical strategy.

As convenor of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), he played a pivotal role in bringing all eight northeastern states under the NDA's ambit, either through BJP gov-ernments or allied partners.

Mentored by former Congress chief ministers Hiteswar Saikia and Tarun Gogoi, Sarma rose steadily within the party before differences with Gogoi led to his exit in 2015. He soon joined the BJP, which leveraged his influence to strengthen its position in the re-gion. Alongside Sarbananda Sonowal, he was instrumental in forming the party's first government in Assam in 2016, holding key portfolios before succeeding Sonowal as chief minister in 2021.

Born in Jorhat to poet Kailash Nath Sarma and literary activist Mrinalini Devi, he holds a master's degree and a PhD in political science from Gauhati University, and an LLB. He practised at the Gauhati High Court for five years. He has a daughter and a son. —*PTI*

Himanta Biswa Sarma celebrates with state BJP president Dilip Saikia shows victory sign in Guwahati on Monday —*PTI*

AAAP	(0.14%)	CPI(M)	(0.47%)
AGP	(5.47%)	CPI (ML) (L)	(0.13%)
AIFB	(0.00%)	INC	(29.84%)
AITC	(0.89%)	JMM	(1.16%)
AIUDF	(5.46%)	NOTA	(1.23%)
BJP	(37.81%)	NPEP	(0.16%)
BOPF	(3.73%)	UPPL	(2.29%)
CPI	(0.04%)	Other	(10.17%)

> I want to thank him (Gaurav Gogoi). His allegations were against an Assamese woman, which made the people emotional. If he had not done the press conference and Gaurav Gogoi had not sat with him through it, he might not have lost today.
>
> -Himanta Sarma, Assam CM

BJP	60
CONG	29
AIUDF	16
AGP	9
UPPL	6
BPF	4
CPI(M)	1

ALLIANCES AND PARTIES • **NDA:** BJP, AGP, UPPL, BPF, RHJ • **ASOM SONMILITO MORCHA (ASM):** Cong, RD, AJP, CPI-M, CPI, CPI(ML)(L) • **Independent parties:** AIUDF, AITCG

WHAT BJP PROMISED

1. Implement UCC within 3 months.
2. To end menace of "love and land jihad".
3. Strict action against illegal immigrants and free "every inch of land" from them.
4. 2 free LPG cylinders per year for "eligible family".
5. To give a cow and a buffalo to each tribal family.

Himanta's politics of polarisation

BJP's 2026 campaign in Assam centred heavily on CM Himanta Biswa Sarma targeting Bengali-speaking Muslims, called "Miyas". Sarma accused them of being illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and a threat to indigenous Assamese culture, charges Opposition says unfairly target the community. Tensions escalated in March after a 17-second AI video shared by BJP showed Sarma firing at images of two Muslim men with the caption "No Mercy". Titled 'Point Blank Shot', the clip was deleted following outrage. Thousands of Bengali-speaking Muslims were deleted from voter rolls during special revision.

JMM fails to open account in Assam, claims 'footprint'

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) failed to open its account in Assam despite contesting 16 seats in the 126-member Assembly. The party, however, claimed it had established a "footprint", with two candidates finishing runners-up and 14 securing third place.

Led by Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the JMM secured 1.18 per cent vote share till 7 pm, higher than the combined share of CPI, CPI(M) and CPI(ML) Liberation, party leaders said.

Phedricson Hasdak delivered the party's best result, finishing second in Gossaigaon with 21.14 per cent votes, losing to BPF's Sabharam Basumatary by 23,083 votes. Priti Rekha Barla also secured second place in Mazbat with 18.42 per cent, losing to BPF's Charan Boro by 55,546 votes.

Eight candidates polled under 10 per cent. Banking on Soren and his wife Kalpana Soren, the party campaigned among tea tribes, targeting 70 lakh voters with Jharkhand roots. —*PTI*

A KNOCKOUT BLOW

Gaurav's debut run ends in Jorhat

GUWAHATI, 4 MAY

Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi suffered his first electoral defeat, losing to veteran BJP leader Hitendranath Goswami by 23,182 votes in Jorhat. Gogoi polled 46,257 votes, while Goswami secured 69,439, retaining the seat for a third consecutive term and marking his sixth term in the Assembly.

A seasoned politician with over three-and-a-half decades in state politics, the 67-year-old Goswami ran a low-key, grassroots-focused campaign, relying on organisational experience and voter outreach while largely staying away from the media glare.

Gogoi, a three-time MP, had returned to state politics after winning the 2024 Lok Sabha election from Jorhat, a result that had put the BJP, particularly Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, on the defensive. The contest intensified after Sarma accused Gogoi and his British-born wife of alleged links with Pakistan's ISI. A Special Investigation Team submitted its report last year, while Gogoi dismissed the charges as "baseless".

The rivalry is often traced to Sarma's strained ties with Gogoi's father, former chief minister Tarun Gogoi, during whose tenure Sarma left the Congress to join the BJP.

Despite the controversy, the Congress appointed Gogoi as Assam PCC chief and projected him as its chief ministerial face. Undeterred by the exit of several senior leaders to the BJP, he focused on strengthening the party at the grassroots, reaching out to rural voters and women, and forging alliances with Raijor Dal, Assam Jatiya Parishad, CPI(M), CPI (ML), CPI and APHLC.

However, Gogoi spent limited time in Jorhat as he campaigned across the state. He framed the contest as one between his father's Congress legacy and the BJP's governance under Sarma. —*PTI*

Gogoi entered state politics after he won 2024 Lok Sabha poll —*PTI*

BIG LOSERS

GAURAV GOGOI
JORHAT
CONG

LOST BY: 23,182 VOTES

BIDISHA NEOG
JALUKBARI
CONG

LOST BY: 89434 VOTES

KUNKI CHOWDHURY
GUWAHATI CENTRAL
AJP

LOST BY: 61921 VOTES

DEBABRATA SAIKIA
NAZIRA
CONG

LOST BY: 46701 VOTES

MIRA BORTHAKUR GOSWAMI
DISPUR, CONG

LOST BY: 49,667 VOTES

DULAL CHANDRA BORUAH
SISSIBARGAON, RAIJOR DAL

LOST BY: 40,593 VOTES

SRI SAILEN SONOWAL
DHEMAJI
CONG

LOST BY: 32,229 VOTES

RIPUN BORA
BARCHALLA
CONG

LOST BY: 24,562 VOTES

ROHIT PARIGA
TANGLA
CONG

LOST BY: 54,601 VOTES

MAINAK PATRA
DIBRUGARH
AJP

LOST BY: 72,043 VOTES

NDA holds on to Puducherry bastion

Opposition parties are reduced to single-digit gains, with DMK winning five seats and the Congress securing one

CM N Rangasamy won both seats- Thattanchavady and Mangalam - he contested from, while the party secured 11 seats

BIG WINNER

N RANGASAMY
THATTANCHAVADY
AINRC

WON BY: 4,441 VOTES

JOSE MARTIN
KAMARAJ NAGAR
LJK

WON BY: 10,000 VOTES

A NAMASSIVAYAM
MANNADIPET
BJP

WON BY: 6,110 VOTES

BJP celebrates as officials oversee counting of votes in Puducherry on Monday

AINRC to form govt for 2nd time in a row

PUDUCHERRY, 4 MAY

Riding on a pro-incumbency wave, the AINRC-led NDA has emerged victorious in the 9 April Puducherry Assembly elections and is set to form the government for a successive term.

AINRC leader and Chief Minister N Rangasamy won both seats he contested, Thattanchavady and Mangalam, while the party secured 11 seats and was leading in one, according to Election Commission figures. Elections to 30 seats were held on 9 April, with the Union Territory also having three nominated members in the House.

Among NDA constituents, the BJP won four seats, while the AIADMK and LJP secured one seat each. Senior BJP leader and incumbent minister A Namassivayam was among the winners.

The NDA's victory came on a day when actor Vijay-led TVK made an impact in neigh-bouring Tamil Nadu, winning seats there and also securing two constituencies in the Union Territory.

Opposition parties were reduced to single-digit gains, with the DMK winning five seats and the Congress securing one.

Rangasamy defeated Neyam Makkal Kazhagam candidate E Vinayagam by 4,441 votes in Thattanchavady, his traditional stronghold, and also won Mangalam by 7,050 votes against DMK's SS Rangan.

This is not the first time Rangasamy has contested from two constituencies. In the 2021 Assembly elections, he fought from Yanam and Thattanchavady, losing the former but retaining the latter. He is now expected to vacate one of the two seats in line with elec-toral norms.

A significant setback for the Opposition came with the defeat of former Chief Minister Ve Vaithilingam, who lost to Rangasamy, marking a key highlight of the contest and un-derlining the NDA's continued hold over the Union Territory's politics. —*PTI*

BJP celebrates in Puducherry —*PTI*

BIG LOSERS

VE VAITHILINGAM
THATTANCHAVADY
CONG

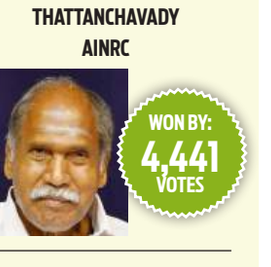
LOST BY: 7,034 VOTES

J VIZAYALAKSHMY
ARIANKUPPAM
CONG

LOST BY: 603 VOTES

VP RAMALINGAME
RAJ BHAVAN
BJP

LOST BY: 287 VOTES

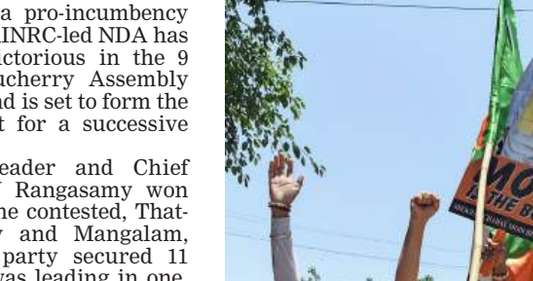


ADMK	(1.09%)	IUML	(0.09%)
AINRC	(23.02%)	NOTA	(0.77%)
BJP	(12.26%)	NTK	(1.37%)
CPI	(0.04%)	TVK	(16.66%)
CPI(M)	(0.06%)	VCK	(16.66%)
DMK	(13.83%)	OTHERS	(13.08%)
INC	(17.60%)		

ALLIANCES AND PARTIES

- **NDA:** AINRC, BJP, AIADMK
- **UPA:** DMK, INC, CPI-M, VCK, CPI

VOTE



WHAT AINRC PROMISED

1. Two free LPG cylinders to ration card-holders.
2. Reduce petrol prices by ₹10 per litrehousehold.
3. E-scooters for meri torious 12th-class students
4. Free bus travel for women
5. Nine months of paid maternity leave

TVK wins two seats

TVK candidates B Ramu and Sai J Saravanan Kumar on Monday won from Manavely and Thirubuvanai Assembly constituencies respectively in Puducherry. According to Election Commission data, Ramu (TVK) got 13,882 votes and Embalam Selvam (BJP) received 10,729 votes. Selvam was the speaker of the outgoing Assembly.

In Thirubuvanai, Saravanan Kumar of TVK polled 9,740 votes and B Kobiga of Congress got 9,039 votes.

Meanwhile, Senior BJP leader A Namassivayam retained the Mannadipet assembly constituency, defeating his Congress rival TPR Selvam. Selvam shifted his allegiance to the Congress a few months ago. Former Tourism Minister of Puducherry Malladi Krishna Rao defeated Congress candidate Gollapalli Srinivas Ashok in Yanam and regained the Yanam constituency. B Ravikumar of AINRC defeated Puducherry State DMK secretary R Siva in the Villianoor Assembly segment by a margin of 1,970 votes.

KERALA FALLS, BENGAL FADES

India loses its last Left govt

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

The defeat of the LDF in Kerala has left the Left without a single state government for the first time in nearly five decades, underscoring a broader national decline even though the ideology once ruled the popular perception in West Bengal and in Tripura and was a force to reckon with in the national polity.

By Monday evening trends, the Congress-led UDF had opened a decisive lead, while the LDF trailed in its last remaining bastion. The Left will be without any state government for the first time since 1977, marking a significant shift from its earlier position as both a governing force in states and an influential bloc in national politics.

By 6 pm on Monday, the Congress-led UDF had won 58 seats and was leading in 5 more, while the LDF managed 24 seats and was leading in 2. In a limited sign of presence elsewhere, a lone Left candidate was leading from Domkal in Bengal.

Kerala, governed by the LDF since 2016, has been the last remaining state where Left parties exercised executive authority. Earlier strongholds slipped away over the past decade, with the Left Front losing power in West Bengal in 2011 after 34 uninterrupted years, followed by the fall of its government in Tripura in 2018.

Since then, Kerala has served as the only base of state power for Communist parties. Observers say the potential loss of Kerala would further accentuate this decline by removing the Left's last platform of state governance. The erosion of the Left's position has been attributed to a mix of structural and political factors, including the weakening of traditional labour bases due to economic changes, the rise of identity-driven politics, and anti-incumbency

In Kerala, the LDF had managed to retain support longer than elsewhere, aided by welfare-oriented policies and relatively strong social indicators. In West Bengal, where the Left once ruled for over three decades, early trends showed the CPI(M) leading in only one seat. While Left governments appeared intermittently in the decades following Independence, their presence was not continuous. The turning point came in 1977, when the Left Front assumed office in West Bengal, beginning governance that lasted over three decades. From the late 1970s onwards, Left parties were almost always in power in at least one state.

Between 1990 and 2009, the Left parties maintained a steady place in India's electoral politics. They came close to having a prime minister from the CPI(M) when the UF government was formed in 1996 and West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu was offered the PM post. But it was the 'Kerala lobby' in CPI(M) that had taken a stand against it, and Basu had turned down the post. A golden opportunity was lost. —*PTI*

Sunetra makes assembly debut from late husband Ajit's turf

Of the 5 bypoll seats, BJP wins 4

MUMBAI, 4 MAY

Sunetra Pawar, who took oath as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra just three days after her husband Ajit Pawar's death in a plane crash in January amid political pulls and pressure, scored a record win in the bypoll from Baramati, riding on legacy and sympathy in the debut assembly contest.

Thrust into the political spotlight after the death of then Deputy Chief Minister and NCP stalwart Ajit Pawar, the 62-year-old leader secured 2,18,969 votes and won by a margin of 2,18,034, with none of her 22 rivals, mostly Independents, even touching the four-digit mark.

The NCP claimed that Sunetra Pawar has set a new national record of the highest victory margin in assembly elections, surpassing the previous record attributed to BJP's Sunil Kumar Sharma, who had won the Sahibabad segment by 2.14 lakh votes in 2022.

Notably, the Opposition MVA had not fielded a candidate in the bypoll held on 23 April as a tribute to Ajit Pawar. The other 22 candidates together secured 4,837 votes. R Y Ghutukade secured 935 votes, while 774 voters chose NOTA.

Riding the sympathy wave, her margin surpassed that of her late husband, who defeated BJP's Gopichand Padalkar by 1,65,265 votes in 2019. Sunetra Pawar described the victory as a true tribute to Ajitdada's work and his "cherished memories".

"I sincerely thank all the beloved Baramati residents for electing me with an overwhelming majority," she said, urging restraint in celebrations.

"The trust, love, and support you have shown are of great importance to me," she stated."For me, this victory is not merely a political success but a true tribute to his work and his memory."

Her son Jay Pawar echoed the appeal: "None of us wanted to have such an election. We do not wish to celebrate this victory."

Her elevation as Maharashtra's first woman Deputy Chief Minister marks a new phase for the NCP amid ongoing political challenges. —*PTI*

The NCP claimed that Sunetra Pawar has set a new national record with her highest victory margin in assembly elections—*x*

BYPOLL WINNERS

SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR
BARAMATI, MAHARASHTRA
NCP
WON BY 2,18,969 VOTES
RY GHUTUKADE SIR
NRSP

AKSHAY SHIVAJIRAO KARDILE
RAHURI MAHARASHTRA
BJP
WON BY 1,40,093 VOTES
MOKATE GOVIND KHANDU
NCP(SP)

HARSHADBHAI GOVINDBHAI PARMAR
UMRETH, GUJARAT, BJP
WON BY 85,500 VOTES
BHRUGURAJSINH CHAUHAN
CONG

DAOCHIER I IMCHEN
KORIDANG, NAGALAND
BJP
WON BY 7,317 VOTES
TOSHIKABA
INDEPENDENT

JAHAR CHAKRABORTI
DHARMANAGAR, TRIPURA
BJP
WON BY 24,291 VOTES
AMITABHA DATTA
CPI(M)

Man bludgeoned to death over Rs 200 in UP's Budaun

BUDAUN, 4 MAY

A 28-year-old man was murdered with an iron chain following a dispute over just Rs 200. The incident took place in the Kotwali police station area. The incident occurred around 11pm on Sunday in Kabulpura. The victim, Shahid, a painter from Chaudhary Sarai in Uttar Pradesh, had a Rs 500 financial transaction with three suspects—Naim, Fazal, and Wasif—and had returned Rs 300. Naim and Wasif have been arrested, while police hunt for Fazal. Assistant Superintendant of Police (City) Abhishek Kumar Singh said, "The confrontation turned violent when the accused attacked Shahid with a heavy iron chain, inflicting fatal blows to his chest, neck, and torso." Shahid was declared dead at hospital. *—PTI*

—ANI

Spl school students secure 100% Class 10 result

BERHAMPUR, 3 MAY

All 25 students from two special schools for the blind and deaf in Odisha's Ganjam district have sucesfully cleared the Class 10 board exams, with 12 from the Red Cross School for the Blind and 13 from the Helen Keller School for the Deaf. The results, published Saturday, show a 100 per cent pass rate, a record for both schools. The Red Cross School has maintained this record for 43 years. Students, including Jitendra Sahu, who scored B1 grade, aim to pursue higher studies. The school uses Braille textbooks, and answers are dictated to helper-writers. The success reflects the dedicated teaching and government support. *—PTI*

Case filed against BJP leader over MP farmer's suicide

VIDISHA, 4 MAY

Police in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district have registered a case against BJP leader and former MLA Shashank Bhargava on charges of allegedly abetting a farmer's suicide. The deceased Govind Gurjar's body was found near a railway in Peepal Wali Puliya on 27 April, Vidisha City Superintendent of Police Atul Singh said. Gurjar has recorded a video shortly before his death, in which he purportedly levelled serious allegations against the former MLA. Specifically, accusing Bhargava of pressure and financial harassment, SP Singh said. District Superintendent of Police Rohit Kashwani formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT), which found that Bhargava allegedly coerced Gurjar into signing a house agreement. Bhargava, who switched to BJP from Congress in March 2024, faces charges under Section 108 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. *—PTI*

Six detained over pro-Pak slogans in Bareilly market

BAREILLY, 4 MAY

Six individuals were detained after allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans in a busy market area, causing shop closures and widespread panic. The incident took place overnight, with CCTV footage capturing the event. The main accused, Kashif, son of former corporator Tahseen, linked to Maulana Tauqeer Raza's IMC, is absconding. An FIR has been filed against over 48 people, including Kashif, under relevant laws. Inspector Sanjay Dheer said, "Six accused, including two minors, have been detained following raids." Police are on alert following a complaint from local Vikas, who was allegedly threatened and assaulted when he objected to the slogans. *—PTI*

SC slams 'menial labour' order for Dalits

Says Odisha court's bail condition to clean police stations reflects caste bias

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

The Supreme Court came down heavily on courts in Odisha for imposing bail conditions that required accused individuals Dalits and Adivasis to clean police stations for two months.

Taking serious exception to the directions on Monday, the SC termed the condition "obnoxious" and said it reflected a caste bias.

"We are deeply disappointed, and express our strongest disapproval at the manner in which the Odisha judiciary has, in fact regressed to a colonial mindset by imposing such degrading conditions, whicd ex-facie violates human rights.

Such conditions, far from advancing the cause of justice, strike at the dignity of the accused, and proceed on the premise of guilt, which is completely impermissible," the SC said.

The SC declared the bail conditions "null and void." The SC also directed courts throughout India not to impose such bail conditions.

The SC stated that such unfortunate conditions give out an impression that the State judiciary is having a caste-bias, since the accused belonged to a marginalised community.

Supreme Court on Monday criticised orders by Odisha courts for Dalits and Adivasis to clean police stations, as a condition for bail *—WIKIPEDIA*

"There seems to be some substance in reports that no such conditions are being imposed by the Odisha judiciary in cases where the accused are from privileged sections.

The nature of the conditions are so abhorrent, cruel, degrading that there is potential to suggest that the Odisha judiciary is afflicted by caste ased bias," the court observed.

A Bench comprising CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was considering a suo motu case registered over reports regarding the bail conditions.

The report had referred to an order passed by the Orissa High Court on 28 May 2025, requiring one Kumeswar Naik to "clean the premises of the Kashipur Police Station between 6 am and 9 am for two months."

As per the report, eight such orders have been passed between May 2025 and January 2026. *— PTI*

No notice to ED: SC slams Registry

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

The Supreme Court on Monday lashed out at its Registry, terming its conduct "nasty" and saying its officials think they are the "super CJI." While hearing a bail plea on Monday filed by Ayushi Mittal alias Ayushi Agarwal, accused of investment fraud of Rs 37,000 crore.

The bench in its fresh order said, "Notice has not been issued to the ED director stating no such order was passed. Let a fact finding inquiry be undertaken by the registrar judicial (of the SC) as to how our 23 March order does not mean notice to the ED."

While the defence claims a substantial portion of the funds had been returned to the investors, several hundred crores remain in bank accounts frozen by the ED. — PTI

SC to hear pleas against Transgender Amendment Act

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

The Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre, states and UTs on pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026.

CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi agreed to hear the pleas on Monday and issued notices.

The bench said the matter would be placed before a three-judge bench, which would be constituted by the CJI.

"There is no question of granting any interim order," it said.

The SC posted the matter for hearing after six weeks.

On 25 March, Parliament passed a bill to amend the law on the protection and rights of transgender persons, which excludes social orientations from the ambit of the statute. It received the President's assent on 30 March.

The Act provides for graded punishment based on the gravity of harm inflicted on such people. *— PTI*

SC SEEKS RESPONSE ON AFT VACANCIES

Taking note of vacancies in the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), the Supreme Court sought responses on Monday from the Centre and others on a plea that is seeking to complete selection and fill the posts within a time-bound manner.

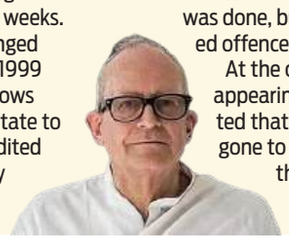
The bench told the counsel appearing for the petitioner, Armed Forces Tribunal Bar Association (Regional Bench), to hand over a copy of the petition to the office of the attorney general.The bench posted the matter for hearing after two weeks. — PTI

SC TO HEAR AGUSTAWESTLAND MIDDLEMAN CHRISTIAN JAMES' RELEASE PLEA

The Supreme Court will hear the plea of alleged middleman **Christian Michel James** in the Rs 3,600-crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam case seeking his release from jail.

Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice to the Centre, CBI and ED on Monday and sought their response in four weeks.

James challenged Article 17 of the 1999 treaty, which allows the requesting state to prosecute extradited persons not only for the specific offence for which extradition was done, but also for connected offences.



At the outset, counsel appearing for James submitted that the high court has gone to the extent of saying that the treaty between India and UAE will prevail over any existing law.

"I had filed a writ petition (before the high court) challenging this portion of the treaty," the counsel submitted.

The bench said it has issued notice on the plea and the matter will be listed in July. — PTI

'Legal heirs liable in negligence cases, after doctor's death'

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

The Supreme Court on Monday held that under the law, the legal heir of a doctor facing any medical negligence case can be proceeded against after the doctor's death.

A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and AS Chandurkar ruled on a legal question in a 30-year-old case involving a deceased doctor whose patient lost her vision following surgery.

The top court, which termed the matter an "exceptional case", dredging out older statutory provisions to address the issue, said it was only answering the question on interpretation of the existing Order XXII of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), 1908.

The bench defined the 'right to sue' as the right to seek legal relief against a defendant. It noted that the right to defend is tied to the right to prosecute. Therefore, both rights must exist for a case to move forward.

"The extent of liability will be determined based on the pleadings and evidence presented," it held.

The top court, which examined several laws, statutes and English law provisions, said the legal question assumes importance as its findings would apply to numerous tortious claims beyond the present case, including personal injury.

The top court said the law has been lost to the pages of history due to fewer tort action litigations in India.

"We may note that the court is only answering the question on interpretation of the applicable law and not expounding on the normative requirement as to whether the policy adopted by the applicable law is correct or there is a need to change. English law appears to have gone further to preserve tortious liabilities of the deceased defendant."

The court pointed out that several past judgments have called for legal changes, suggesting that experts should debate expanding Section 306 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 — rights of action against a deceased person's estate — and ultimately held that the Law Commission should decide whether these provisions need to be reformed.

The case in question began in 1997 when a complainant moved the District Consumer Forum in Munger, Bihar, alleging negligence by Dr PB Lall following his wife's failed eye surgery in 1990. During the prolonged legal battle, Dr Lall passed away. *— PTI*

HC junks SpiceJet's Rs 144 cr review plea

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

The Delhi High Court dismissed pleas by SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh seeking a review of an earlier order to deposit Rs 144 crore in connection with its legal dispute with media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways.

Justice Subramonium Prasad also imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the airline and Singh.

On 19 January, the court had directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit Rs 144 crore with the registry within six weeks against an admitted liability of Rs 194 crore. On 18 March, time to make the deposit was extended by four weeks.

Singh and his budget airline sought reconsideration of the 18 March direction on several counts, including financial distress amid the ongoing war in West Asia.

SpiceJet instead offered a commercial property in Gurugram as security and informed the court that the Centre is willing to offer it some assistance.

Maran and Kal Airways opposed the review petitions, saying the issues arising from financial distress had already been considered and rejected by the Supreme Court.

The matter arises from a dispute regarding the non-issuance of warrants in favour of Maran after the transfer of ownership to Singh, the controlling shareholder of SpiceJet.

The dispute started after Singh took control of SpiceJet in February 2015 amid a financial crisis at the airline.

Maran and Kal Airways had transferred their entire 35.04 crore equity shares, or 58.46 per cent stake, in SpiceJet, to co-founder Singh, in February 2015 for just Rs 2. *— PTI*

Court clears Thane man in POCSO case, cites consent

THANE, 4 MAY

A Thane court acquitted a 27-year-old man for kidnapping and rape, noting that the victim was an adult and had accompanied him voluntarily.

As the victim was a major, she was capable to make her own decisions, Special POCSO Court Judge Ruby U Malvankar said in the order given on 24 April.

An FIR was registered on 25 January 2020, against Shashikapur Shyamlal Gupta, a resident of Kalwa in Thane, on a complaint by the victim's father, alleging that his 16-year-old daughter was 'kidnapped' from their home in the same area.

The police traced the girl and the accused to Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, where the couple claimed they had married in a temple before moving to Surat.

The man faced charges under sections 363 (kidnapping), 376 (rape), and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC, and POCSO Act.

During the trial, the prosecution examined the victim, her father and another witness.

The court observed that the father of the victim himself contradicted the minor status claim during his deposition.

"It appears that at the relevant time, the victim was major, aged 18 to 19 years, and was therefore capable of making her own decisions," the judge noted.

Further, the victim in her testimony stated that she had left home of her own accord and had given her consent. Emphasising the voluntary nature of the relationship and the absence of evidence proving the victim's minor status, the court ruled that the sexual intercourse did not fall under the POCSO Act. *— PTI*

CHISHTY FOUNDATION HOLDS SEMINAR ON MEDIA EDU

AJMER, 4 MAY

- The seminar witnessed an overwhelming turnout of young men and women, students, and Anjuman members

In a landmark initiative to empower the youth of the 800 year old Khuddam Community of Ajmer Sharif, the Chishty Foundation and the Saksham Sanchar Foundation organised a grand seminar on Media & Communication Education, Career Counselling and Start-up Dialogue at the Chishtiya Hall, Dargah Sharif, Ajmer on 3 May.

The seminar witnessed an overwhelming turnout of young men and women, students, Anjuman members and senior representatives of the Khuddam-e-Khawaja community. The event brought together a distinguished panel of nationally recognised experts in media, communication, career counselling and entrepreneurship.

Archana Sharma, the Director of Saksham Sanchar Foundation, shared valuable insights on media literacy and communication skills. Dr Lalit Khatri, the Senior Career Counselor at the Click To College, guided youth on career planning and professional pathways. Raunak Kumar Sinha from Chandigarh University spoke on emerging career opportunities for young professionals. Prof. (Dr) Fakira Mohan Nahak, the Director of PR & Media Communication at Manipal University Jaipur, addressed the audience on the evolving landscape of media and public relations.

Neelam Singh, the Editor of The Healthy Indian and Project Director of Trusted Information Alliance, highlighted the role of responsible journalism and trusted media.

Yajvender Yadav, a celebrated author, spoke on the power of writing, personal branding and communication. Sandeep Dahiya, the Bureau Chief of PTI, shared his extensive experience in national media and journalism.— Salar News

PROBE ORDERED

Part of bridge over Ganga collapses in Bihar's Bhagalpur

PATNA, 4 MAY

A part of a key bridge over the Ganga collapsed in Bihar's Bhagalpur district early on Monday, forcing the authorities to order an investigation, officials said.

No casualty was reported in the incident that stopped traffic on the 4.7-kilometre-long Vikramshila Setu, which connects Bhagalpur and Naugachia in the district.

Authorities arranged steamers and boats to ferry people from one side of the river to the other after the incident.

Bhagalpur District Magistrate Nawal Kishor Choudhary said, "Around 12.50am, a gap formed near pillar number 133 of the Vikramshila Setu. Shortly after that, a major slab fell into the river."

There is no information about any vehicle falling with the slab or casualties, he said.

A part of a bridge, Vikramshila Setu, over the Ganga collapsed in Bihar's Bhagalpur on Monday *—PTI*

"As soon as officials received information about the gap between the two slabs, they removed all vehicles and people," the DM said.

Stating that traffic is blocked on both sides of the bridge, he urged people to take the alternative route via Munger.

Bihar State Bridge Construction Corporation Chairman Chandrashekhar Singh said that Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has spoken with the Defence Minister and the Army chief to ensure alternative arrangements for people with the help of the BRO and army.

Meanwhile, arrangements for boats and steamers have been made to ensure the continuation of transportation, and a target has been set for repair of the bridge within three months. — PTI

Police kill suspect who murdered women, 4 kids

AMBEDKAR NAGAR, 4 MAY

A man accused of killing four children and their mother in Uttar Pradesh's Ambedkar Nagar was gunned down in a police encounter on Monday, in which two policemen were also injured, officials said. The accused, Aamir, is suspected to have been motivated by a combination of obsessive affection and greed for property, police said

Ambedkar Nagar SP Prachi Singh said the encounter took place on the intervening night of Sunday-Monday. "Aamir was cornered by police following a tip-off when he was trying to flee the district. When asked to surrender, he opened fire. In retaliatory firing, the accused sustained fatal injuries. Two policemen were also injured in the encounter," the SP told reporters.

When the bodies of the four children were discovered on Saturday, the mother was initially suspected of being behind the act. However, the narrative changed a day later when the woman's body was found dumped in a drain, indicating that she too was a victim of the same perpetrator. A thorough probe and technical surveillance led police to Aamir, the SP said.

"Aamir wanted to marry the mother. He also wanted to grab her property. When things did not go his way, he eliminated the entire family," the officer said. Police has been deployed in the area following the encounter, SP Singh stated. *— PTI*

Kenya flooding kills 18, displaces over 54,000

NAIROBI, 4 MAY

Heavy rains and flooding have killed 18 people in Kenya over the past week, mostly drowning victims, police said. More than 54,000 households have been affected nationally, including 6,000 in Nairobi. Dozens of schools and hospitals are flooded, and 17 roads are blocked. Mudslides have displaced thousands in the western Rift Valley, while residents downstream of the Tana and Athi rivers are urged to move to higher ground as dam water levels rise. The Kenya Meteorological Department warns that heavy rainfall will continue into early May. Since March, rains have caused over 100 deaths and widespread destruction across the country, with ongoing danger from floods and mudslides. —*PTI*

— *X*

Former NYC mayor Giuliani hospitalised

NEW YORK, 4 MAY

Rudolph Giuliani, the ex-mayor of New York City and former adviser to President Trump, is in critical at hospital, his spokesman said. Ted Goodman did not specify the cause or duration. Giuliani, 81, hosted "America's Mayor Live" from Florida on Friday, appearing raspy. Trump called Giuliani "the best mayor in New York City history," despite treatment by Democrats. Giuliani, known for fighting mobsters and corruption, ran for Senate in 2000 and for president in 2007. Two Georgia election workers later won a USD 148 million defamation judgment against Giuliani. He was found in contempt of court and faced a trial over asset ownership. —*PTI*

Iran announces new control zone in Hormuz

Sirens heard in UAE as Iran is 'examining' US' response

TEHRAN, 4 MAY

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has announced a new maritime control zone in the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the Iranian state broadcaster, the new zone of "smart control" has the line between Mount Mobarak in Iran and south of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates in the south, and the line between the end of Qeshm Island in Iran and Umm Al Quwain in the United Arab Emirates in the west.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei has confirmed that officials are currently assessing a counter-proposal from the United States aimed at halting the ongoing conflict, according to a report by Al Jazeera.

Addressing a press conference, Baghaei noted that "the US message was received through Pakistan" and added that he "will not discuss the details of the issues raised at this time, because these issues are still under review."

The spokesperson highlighted the various difficulties in the ongoing negotiation process, suggesting that the American approach of making "excessive and unreasonable demands" ensures the proposal "is not easy to review."

Iran's Major General Ali Abdollahi said on Monday that Strait of Hormuz security remains under the authority of Iran's armed forces —*X@CENTCOM*

Addressing recent media coverage regarding Tehran's atomic ambitions, Baghaei dismissed reports concerning negotiations over its nuclear programme.

He stated that the claims are "mostly speculation" and asserted that Iran is currently focused on efforts to end the war.

IRAN TO TARGET SHIPS IN HORMUZ

The commander of Iran's highest operational command unit has warned that the Iranian Armed Forces will target any foreign forces, particularly from the US military, that attempt to approach or enter the Strait.

In a statement released on Monday, Major General Ali Abdollahi, commander of Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, reiterated that the security of the Strait of Hormuz, stating it is solely under the authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces.

He emphasised that all safe passage through the strategic waterway must first be coordinated with Iranian military forces.

General Abdollahi stated that "the criminal leaders and the aggressive, terrorist American army" had recently resorted to piracy and banditry in international waters, endangering global trade and economic security.

MISSILE ALERT IN UAE

Authorities in the United Arab Emirates have issued an emergency missile alert urging residents to immediately seek shelter. The alert was issued shortly after the US military announced that two merchant ships had transited the Strait.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, and an all-clear signal was later sent. —*Agencies*

The MV Hondius was travelling between Argentina and Cape Verde when the outbreak occured—*CRUISEMAPPER*

Hantavirus outbreak on cruise ship kills 3 in Atlantic

CAPE TOWN, 4 MAY

A suspected outbreak of the rare hantavirus infection spread on a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean, killing three people, including an elderly married couple, and leaving at least three people ill, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and South Africa's Department of Health said Sunday. The weeklong cruise started in Argentina.

The Dutch company that operates the cruise said the ship was now sitting off the coast of Cape Verde, an island nation off Africa's west coast, and local authorities had not allowed anyone to disembark.

It said the two sick people on board requiring urgent medical care were crew members.

One of the patients has been placed in intensive care in a South African hospital. WHO said it was working with authorities to evacuate two others with symptoms from the ship, and an investigation is underway.

Hantaviruses are a global family of viruses primarily spread through contact with the waste of infected rodents. It is best known for causing severe respiratory and renal diseases in humans. While rare, hantavirus can be spread between people. There is no specific treatment or cure, but early medical attention can increase the chance of survival.

Hantaviruses cause two serious syndromes, according to the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention: hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, which affects the lungs, and hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, which affects the kidneys. —*PTI*

Lindsey Graham calls for restarting war

WASHINGTON, 4 MAY

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham called for using more force against Iran, as he backed "Project Freedom". "It is clear to me that Iran is playing games through negotiations, as their last offer to end the conflict was absurd," he wrote in a post on X. "Again, I hope this conflict can end diplomatically, but it is now time to regain freedom of navigation and forcefully respond to Iran if they insist on terrorising the world," he added. Graham has repeatedly advocated for the using greater force against Iran is reportedly one of the most pro-war members of Trump's inner circle. Earlier, he said that Trump should ignore the 60-day War Power's Resolution deadline. He called the 1973 act "unconstitutional". —*ANI*

Europe got US' message about NATO: Rutte

YEREVAN, 4 MAY

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte stated on Monday that Europe has "gotten the message" from the US regarding their military contributions to the alliance. Rutte indicated during a European Political Community summit in Armenia on that allies are now moving to ensure that "agreements on the use of military bases are being implemented" across the continent. This comes after Trump said that around 5,000 military personnel will be leaving the Germany, after Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that Iran was "humiliating" US. Trump also threatened to cut troops to Italy and Spain. At the summit, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hinted at expanding military ties with Europe. —*ANI*

US 'evacuates' crew of seized Iranian ship to Pak

ISLAMABAD, 4 MAY

The 22 crew members of an Iranian ship seized by the US were "evacuated" to Pakistan as "confidence-building measure", according to a statement. The ship 'MV Touska', part of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) group that has been hit with US sanctions, was boarded and seized by US forces on 19 April off the coast of Iran's Chabahar port in the Gulf of Oman, according to Pakistan's Foreign Office. The statement said that the Iranian ship will also be backloaded to Pakistani territorial waters for return to its original owners after necessary repairs. "These returns are being coordinated in tandem with the support of both the Iranian and US sides," it said. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar expressed satisfaction with US and Iran. —*PTI*

Russia strikes kill 5 in Ukraine

KYIV, 4 APRIL

At least five people were killed by Russian strikes on Ukraine's Kharkiv, announced Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko on X.

Another 16 people were also injured, and they are receiving all necessary assistance, she added.

Civilian infrastructure was targeted in the attack, including at least 10 houses and four shops, Governor Oleh Syniehubov said on Monday.

"This is Russia's deliberate tactic – to intimidate, exhaust, and kill civilians. Such terror cannot go unanswered." Svyrydenko stated

He added, "Coordinated action with Ukraine's partners is needed to strengthen the protection and stop these attacks." —*Agencies*

— *ANI*

Rupee hits all-time low of 95.23, drops by 39p

MUMBAI, 4 MAY

The rupee declined 39 paise to close at an all-time low of 95.23 against the US dollar on Monday, amid ongoing West Asia tensions causing market volatility, high oil prices, and inflation fears. Forex traders noted Brent oil near USD 110 per barrel maintains pressure on oil-importers like India. Unabated foreign capital outflows amid geopolitical uncertainties further dented investor sentiment. The rupee opened at 94.95, then fell to 95.23, marking a 39 paise drop. Dilip Parmar of HDFC Securities said, "The dollar recovered and crude prices held firm." Meanwhile, the dollar index was at 98.26, up 0.11 per cent. Brent crude traded at USD 109.65 per barrel.—*PTI*

Mfg sector shows mild recovery amid Iran war: PMI

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

India's manufacturing activity in April showed signs of mild recovery, with the HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rising from 53.9 in March to 54.7. Despite the increase, this remains the second-weakest growth rate in nearly four years. The PMI gauges overall factory conditions through new orders, output, employment, and supplier delivery times, with readings above 50 indicating expansion.

"India's manufacturing PMI rose to 54.7 in April, up from 53.9 in March, but still marking the second-slowest improvement in operating conditions in nearly four years," the report states.

While demand and sales were supported by advertising, growth was hampered by global competitive conditions, the West Asia war, and reluctance among clients to approve pending quotes.

- The war has also pushed input costs and output prices higher, with input costs rising at the fastest rate since August 2022.

The war has also pushed input costs and output prices higher, with input costs rising at the fastest rate since August 2022, and output prices increasing in the last six months. Export orders expanded sharply, reaching a 7-month high, with demand from Australia, France, Japan, Kenya, China, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the UK.

Despite inflation pressures, manufacturers remained optimistic about growth prospects, expecting success from marketing efforts. —*PTI*

Mkts rebound: Sensex up 356 pts, Nifty over 24,100

Investor sentiment positive amid WB poll results

MUMBAI, 4 MAY

Sensex rebounded by 356 points, while the Nifty settled above 24,100 on Monday, and is expected to maintain its gradual move.

"Investor sentiment remained supported by a favourable election outcome in West Bengal and Q4 earnings, helping markets look past West Asia-related concerns." Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 355.90 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 77,269.40. During the day, it jumped 997.25 points or 1.29 per cent to 77,910.75. The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 121.75 points or 0.51 per cent to end at 24,119.30.

Of the 30-Sensex firms, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro, Eternal and Maruti were among the biggest gainers. While Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and ITC were among the laggards.

Broader markets also advanced with the BSE SmallCap Select index jumping 0.79 per cent and MidCap Select index by 0.75 per cent. Among major sectoral gainers, BSE Realty, Services, Capital Goods, Industrials, Healthcare and Utilities gained more than 1 per cent. BSE IT and PSU Bank were major losers. A total of 2,607 stocks advanced, while 1,735 declined and 216 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.48 per cent to USD 109.8 per barrel. Stock-specific momentum added to the upside, with leaders like Maruti Suzuki and Hindustan Unilever driving gains on the back of strong operational updates, Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 8,047.86 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 3,487.10 crore. Stock exchanges were closed on Friday for Maharashtra Day.

On Thursday, the Sensex tumbled 582.86 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 76,913.50. The Nifty dived 180.10 points or 0.74 per cent to end at 23,997.55. —*PTI*

Adobe names Manoj Nagpal as VP in India

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

Adobe announced Manoj Nagpal as Vice President of its Global Delivery Centre and Shared Services, effective immediately. Based in Bengaluru, Nagpal will lead expansion, innovation, and team development for global operations. He reports to Scott Bajtos, Global Vice President. Bajtos said, "India is vital for Adobe's global strategy; Manoj's experience will help build customer loyalty." Nagpal has over 30 years' experience, previously serving as Managing Director of OpenText India. He also held senior roles at GXS, GE, and Xerox. India's Adobe workforce exceeds 8,000 employees across five campuses, making it a key hub for the company's worldwide operations. —*PTI*

RS 14,535 CR OFFER

NCLAT rejects Vedanta's challenge to Adani's JAL bid

NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) dismissed Vedanta Ltd's challenge against the winning bid by Adani Group for bankrupt Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL). The appeals court found no merit in Vedanta's arguments and upheld the decision of the Committee of Creditors (CoC). The CoC had favoured Adani's Rs 14,535 crore bid over Vedanta's resolution plan, a decision approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in November 2025.

Vedanta had contested the process, claiming it lacked transparency and that its revised Rs 16,070 crore bid offered better value. The tribunal rejected this, stating the CoC's decision was based on overall commercial wisdom. The court also dismissed Vedanta's claims about evaluation metrics, emphasising the process was in accordance with Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) rules.

The ruling paves the way for Adani's takeover, subject to further legal challenges. JAL, with assets including India's only Formula One circuit, was admitted for insolvency in June 2024 after defaulting on loans of over Rs 57,000 crore. The case involved extensive bids from multiple companies. —*PTI*

Citi upgrades Vodafone Idea's relief outlook

MUMBAI, 4 MAY

Citi Research has upgraded its outlook on Vodafone Idea following relief on Adjusted Gross Revenue dues, saying the move eases the telecom operator's debt burden though risks remain.

The government has reassessed dues at about Rs 640 billion as of December 2025, down from Rs 805 billion earlier. Citi said the resolution of regulatory uncertainty improves Vodafone Idea's ability to raise around Rs 250 billion in bank debt. The revised structure includes a 10-year moratorium, with most payments due between FY36 and FY41, reducing liabilities on a net present value basis. However, Citi flagged risks including high leverage, subscriber churn and dependence on government aid. —*ANI*

BHEL shares surge 7% after Q4 earnings

MUMBAI, 4 MAY

BHEL shares rose 7 per cent on Monday —*PTI*

Shares of BHEL rose 7 per cent on Monday after the company reported a more than 2.5 times increase in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 2026. The stock increased 6.97 per cent to close at Rs 376.95 on the BSE. During intra-day trading, it soared 13.20 per cent to Rs 398.95, reaching the 52-week high. On the NSE, the stock gained 6.99 per cent to settle at Rs 377.05.

The company's market valuation increased by Rs 8,548.47 crore to Rs 1,31,256.38 crore. BHEL reported a net profit of Rs 1,290.47 crore for the quarter, supported by revenue growth mainly from the power segment. This compares to Rs 504.45 crore in the same period last year, as per an exchange filing.

During the fourth quarter, total income rose to Rs 12,553.50 crore from Rs 9,142.64 crore in the previous year. Revenue from the power segment was Rs 9,509.85 crore, up from Rs 6,192.41 crore. For FY26, net profit increased to Rs 1,600.26 crore from Rs 533.90 crore.

Total income grew to Rs 34,589.83 crore from Rs 28,804.79 crore in FY25.

BHEL is India's largest engineering and manufacturing enterprise in energy and infrastructure. —*PTI*

Jaishankar's big gift wows Jamaica cricket fans

KINGSTON, 4 MAY

Cricket serves as a bridge between India and Jamaica, fostering a relationship "written in runs, respect and friendship", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said as he dedicated a digital scoreboard, gifted by New Delhi, to the Caribbean nation. Speaking at the unveiling of the scoreboard at the iconic Sabina Park cricket stadium in the Jamaican capital Kingston on Sunday, Jaishankar highlighted the unifying role of sports, particularly cricket, which he said is followed passionately by over a billion people in India. "Sports bring nations together by creating shared experiences and fostering mutual respect. And cricket, in particular, has a special meaning for India and Jamaica," he said.—*PTI*

Diksha and Tvesa drop down on the final in Mauritius

PORT LOUIS, 4 MAY

The Indian trio of Diksha Dagar, Tvesa Malik, and Hitaashee Bakshi suffered a tough closing round and slipped down the leaderboard at the 2026 MCB Ladies Classic – Mauritius. After opening with 68-69, Diksha shot a 74 in the third round to finish T-21, while Tvesa, after 70-71, shot 73 and was T-38. Hitaashee, who carded a solid 71-69 on the first two days, had a round of 76 and dropped to T-58. Denmark's Smilla Tarning Soenderby secured her second Ladies European Tour (LET) title, becoming the first-ever winner of the 2026 MCB Ladies Classic – Mauritius with a birdie on the last hole.—*PTI*

Athletes should inspire youth: J&K Lt Governor

SRINAGAR, 4 MAY

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called upon the athletes and sportspersons to act as ambassadors of 'Nasha Mukt Abhiyaan' and inspire the youth to shun drugs and embrace sports. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of All India Inter-University Wushu Championship at the University of Kashmir here, Sinha asked athletes to create a short video and share it on social media to spread awareness against substance abuse and inspire others to adopt sports and creative activities for a positive lifestyle. "You are the role models for India's new generation.—*PTI*

PTI

Sinner seems unstoppable at Italian Open

ROME, 4 MAY

Most tennis players, even some of the very best ones, have days where they struggle and don't feel the ball the way that they want to. For top-ranked Jannik Sinner, those types of days are getting rarer and rarer. And with Carlos Alcaraz sidelined due to a right wrist injury, it doesn't seem like anyone can beat the top-ranked Sinner as the heart of the tennis season approaches with the French Open and Wimbledon coming up over the next two months. "He's very stable. He doesn't have dips. He doesn't have phases where he goes down," No. 3 Alexander Zverev said after getting routed by Sinner in Sunday's Madrid Open final for his ninth straight loss to the Italian. "That's why he's world No. 1." Sinner's title in the Spanish capital made him the first player to win five consecutive Masters 1000 events.—*PTI*

DC seeks an end to its horror run at home

Both sides are on eight points from nine games, and with five matches remaining

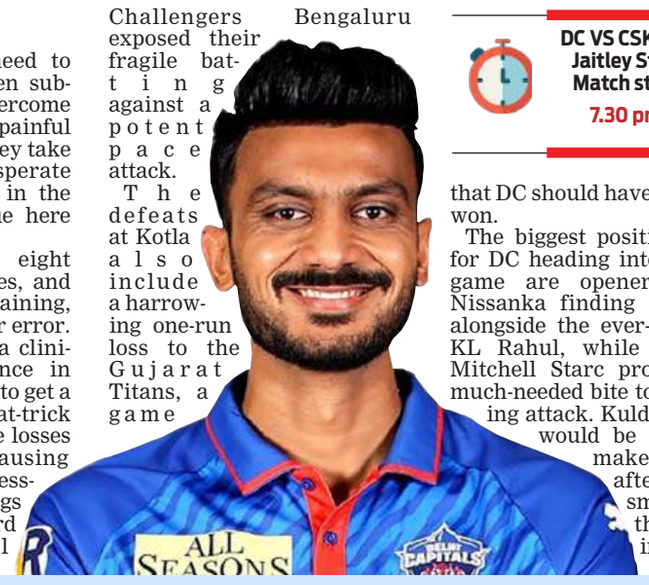
NEW DELHI, 4 MAY

Delhi Capitals will need to stop oscillating between sublime and suicidal to overcome their streak of three painful losses at home when they take on an equally desperate Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Both sides are on eight points from nine games, and with five matches remaining, there is no room left for error.

The Capitals put up a clinical batting performance in Jaipur on Friday night to get a welcome win after a hat-trick of defeats. Two of those losses came at home, causing immense hurt in the dressing room as Punjab Kings chased down a record 265 before Royal Challengers Bengaluru exposed their fragile batting against a potent pace attack.

The defeats at Kotla also include a harrowing one-run loss to the Gujarat Titans, a game that DC should have definitely won.



DC VS CSK @ Arun Jaitley Stadium
Match starts at 7.30 pm IST

The biggest positives going for DC heading into the CSK game are opener Pathum Nissanka finding his range alongside the ever-consistent KL Rahul, while speedster Mitchell Starc provides the much-needed bite to the bowling attack. Kuldeep Yadav would be itching to make amends after being smashed for three sixes in his final over in Jaipur. He has also been rather expensive thus far in the tournament, leaking runs at 10.26 runs per over while taking only seven wickets in nine games.

"You have to come every day and keep doing the same things. You can always turn things around. So very happy with the way the boys played.

> "Ngidi is set to return to action after recovering from the head injury
> -Munaf Patel, Delhi Capitals bowling coach

Dhoni is steadily improving: Eric Simons

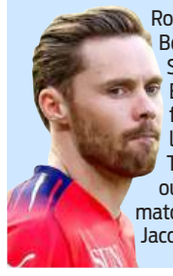
Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Eric Simons on Monday said that MS Dhoni has not travelled for the away game against Delhi Capitals here, though he is steadily improving after not playing a game this season due to a calf injury.

More than half the season is done with CSK set to play their 10th game in what has been an underwhelming campaign. Like every season since his international retirement, there is immense speculation over the future of the 44-year-old Indian great in the IPL. —*PTI*

We still haven't played our best game: Jason Holder

Jason Holder believes that the Gujarat Titans are yet to play their best cricket but have still managed to find a way to win matches and remain in IPL playoff contention. Holder, who produced a match-winning four-wicket haul against a rampaging Punjab Kings, is happy that every win has been based on collective effort rather than individual brilliance. "The beauty about how we've been playing is that it's not one individual performing every single day. Different players are stepping up on different days," Holder said at the post-match press conference after GT beat PBKS by five wickets on Sunday."So I think we still arguably haven't played our best game yet, but you know, the beauty about that is that we're still getting the two points necessary each time we cross the line." While a target of 164 was chased only with a ball to spare.

Injured Phil Salt returns home for medical scans



Royal Challengers Bengaluru opener Phil Salt has returned to England for scans on a finger injury sustained last month.

The injury has kept Salt out of RCB's last three matches, with compatriot Jacob Bethell stepping in at the top of the order. The 29-year-old is reported to have "damaged a finger on his left hand" while diving to save a boundary at deep backward square leg during RCB's defeat to Delhi Capitals at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on 18 April. "Salt, who is centrally contracted by the ECB, has since returned home at the request of England's management and has undergone scans on his finger," ESPNCricinfo reported. According to the report, both RCB and Salt are hopeful of a speedy recovery, and the opener can return to India later this month. Salt had enjoyed a strong start to the season.

BADMINTON & TABLE TENNIS

Dr. G. Parameshwar, Hon'ble Home Minister of Karnataka, opened the 2nd All India Police Badminton Cluster in Bengaluru on Monday. K. V. Prabhakar, Media Advisor, also seen -*PHOTO SALAR*

India continues to fare poorly in shotgun WC

ALMATY, 4 MAY

India's Ganemat Sekhon shot 70 out of 75 to end day one just a point outside the top eight, while veteran Mairaj Ahmad Khan endured another disappointing outing in the skeet competition at the ISSF World Cup Shotgun here on Monday.

The Chandigarh-based Sekhon, a silver medallist at this range three years ago, was the best-placed Indian, sitting ninth and in contention for a finals berth with 50 qualification targets and the finals scheduled for Tuesday. In the men's event, the 50-year-old Mairaj began with a 25 before slipping to 23 and 23, ending the day on 71 in 27th place. Fellow Olympian Anantjeet Singh Naruka also opened with a perfect 25 but managed only 23 and 21 thereafter to total 69, extending his underwhelming run this season. —*PTI*

Directionless Indian archers face stern test in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 4 MAY

Indian archery heads into another major event clouded by poor planning, lack of direction, and the absence of a full-time foreign coach, an alarming situation in an Asian Games year, as a strong field assembles for World Cup Stage 2 beginning here on Tuesday.

With the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, scheduled from 19 September to 4 October, approaching fast, India's build-up looks far from convincing.

The season began with a disappointing outing at the World Cup Stage 1 in Mexico, where the only saving grace was a gold medal from the women's compound team.

That result did little to hide deeper concerns.

Despite competing in a depleted field, with powerhouse South Korea skipping the event, India's recurve archers failed to step up.

It turned into a reality check as none of the leading names, including former Olympians Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Deepika Kumari, and Ankita Bhakat, could reach the medal rounds.

Das and Dhiraj managed pre-quarterfinal finishes before bowing out.

The men's recurve team, seeded 10th, suffered an opening-round exit after losing to Spain in straight sets.

The women's team cleared the first hurdle but went down to Turkey in the quarterfinals.

In the individual section, Deepika, India's most decorated archer, exited in the second round. —*PTI*

AFC U-17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP

India gears up for a stern test against Japan

SUZHOU, 4 MAY

India face a stern test against powerhouse Japan as they look to bounce back from their opening game defeat and revive their campaign in the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup 2026 here on Tuesday.

The Young Tigresses lost their opening Group B match to Australia 0-2 and find themselves in a situation where every goal will matter after Japan crushed Lebanon 13-0 to garner three points.

Japan, among the most technically refined sides in women's football, brings a formidable pedigree into the clash, having reached the final in seven of the nine editions of the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup and lifting the title four times.

The Asian giants also underlined their global dominance by clinching the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup crown in 2014.

Though Japan will start as overwhelming favourites, the Young Tigresses remain undaunted, with head coach Pamela Conti asserting that her players will take the field with a clear and focused mindset.

"We've just finished training, and we are quite excited because we are going to play against one of the strongest teams in the world.

"I, as a coach, and the players as well, believe that we need to play a perfect match if we want to win. —*PTI*

MUHAMMAD SHOAIB'S FAIRYTALE TITLE WIN

LAHORE, 4 MAY

There were days when Muhammad Shoaib trained in slippers, wearing Salwar Kameez because he couldn't afford shoes and tennis apparel.

Shoaib's stunning ITF Futures title not only fulfilled a deeply personal dream but also ended a 20-year wait for a Pakistani singles winner, a drought stretching back to 2007, when Aqeel won a Futures event in Lahore and Aisam clinched a Challenger title in Delhi later that year.

There were days when his worn-out shoes had torn soles, but he kept on playing, the blisters and oozing blood bearing testimony of the pain he endured for countless hours.

Days when access to a tennis court itself meant waiting for the harsh midday heat, because only then would it be empty enough for someone like him to sneak in a session at Peshawar Club.

On Sunday in Islamabad, that same boy stood as Pakistan's newest tennis champion and only the third in his country's tennis history after Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan. —*PTI*

Awoniyi double sinks Blues in 3-1 Premier League shock

LONDON, 4 MAY

At Stamford Bridge, Nottingham Forest produced a ruthless away performance to defeat Chelsea 3-1, powered by a clinical brace from Taiwo Awoniyi and a penalty from Igor Jesus.

Morgan Gibbs-White orchestrated a swift attacking move, setting up Awoniyi for his second goal of the match. The striker finished confidently, extending Forest's lead to 3-0.

The result deepens Chelsea's ongoing league crisis while significantly boosting Forest's survival hopes. Cole Palmer missed his first-ever Chelsea penaltysaved by Matz Selsas the Blues slumped to a sixth consecutive Premier League defeat, losing 3-1 to Nottingham Forest at Stamford Bridge on 4 May Despite dominating possession, Chelsea fell behind early and could not recover, marked by a frustrating performance and a pivotal missed spot-kick from their star player. The tone of the chelsea vs nottingham forest encounter was set almost immediately. Nottingham Forest stunned the home crowd by taking the lead inside two minutes. Dilane Bakwa delivered the cross, and Taiwo Awoniyi rose to head past Robert Sánchez, exposing Chelsea's defensive fragility early.—*PTI*

CHINA RETAINS THOMAS CUP CROWN

South Korea wins Uber Cup, beating China 3-1

NINGBO, 4 MAY

World number one and Olympic champion An Se-young "started the fire" as South Korea toppled China to win badminton's prestigious Uber Cup women's world team title.

China, meanwhile, beat France to lift the Thomas Cup, the men's crown, also in the Danish city of Horsens.

South Korea won the Uber Cup for a third time with a 3-1 victory over title-holder China late on Sunday.

Top-ranked An put the Koreans on their way, dismantling world number two Wang Zhiyi 21-10, 21-13.

China levelled in the first doubles rubber through Tan Ning and Liu Shengshu, before Kim Ga-eun stunned Chen Yufei 21-19, 21-15 to put South Korea within sight of glory.

Baek Ha-na and Kim Hye-jeong fought back to defeat Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian 16-21, 21-10, 21-13 to seal the triumph.

"An started the fire going," said team captain Lee So-hee, who reserved special praise for Kim Ga-eun following her surprise victory over Tokyo Olympic champion Chen.

"Ga-eun was in a tough match, but she did it. I'm very proud of her."

Kim, the world number 17, was delighted to have played her part after being dropped from the semi-finals.

"I wasn't in the lineup for the tie against Indonesia in the semi-finals as I hadn't played well earlier," she said. "But that helped me save energy, and it was also good motivation for the game." China, badminton's superpower, retained its Thomas Cup crown with a 3-1 win over France. It was France's first Thomas Cup final, underlining the country's rise in the sport. —*PTI*

Inter seals Serie A title with three matchdays to spare

MILAN, 4 MAY

Inter Milan sealed the Italian league soccer title with a 2-0 victory over visiting Parma.

Inter, which needed only a draw to secure the trophy, moved an unassailable 12 points clear of 2025 champion Napoli with three rounds remaining.

It's Inter's 21st Serie A title, trailing only the record 36 held by Juventus. Marcus Thuram scored just before the break with an angled shot placed just beyond the reach of Parma goalkeeper Zion Suzuki. Then 37-year-old Henrikh Mkhitaryan added another in the 80th after taking a pass from Serie A scoring leader Lautaro Martinez, who came off the bench to mark his return from an injury layoff. Thuram was born in Parma while his father, Lilian Thuram, played there.

For Cristian Chivu, Inter's first-year coach, the trophy was secured against the club he coached last season, having helped Parma avoid relegation. Chivu, who was hired to replace the departed Simone Inzaghi nearly a year ago, played on the Inter team that won a treble under Jose Mourinho in 2010. —*PTI*